

Informatics

AN **e** GOVERNANCE BULLETIN FROM NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE

<http://informatics.nic.in>

SPECIAL FEATURE

- 2nd Asia IT Ministers' Summit
- Virtual Private Networks

STATE IN FOCUS

- Tripura

DISTRICT INFORMATICS

- Junagadh
- Bilaspur

E-GOV SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

- ICI Facilitates Cashew/Coconut Development & Export (Cochin)
- Koshwahini
- Tenders Online
- President of India - On the Web



VOLUME 12 NO.4 APRIL 2004

Advisory Committee

Dr. N.Vijayaditya
Dr. B.K. Gairola
Dr. Y.K. Sharma
Sh. D.P. Bobde
Sh. M. Moni

Managing Editor

Neeta Verma
Editor
Sonal Kalra
Design & Layout
Mohan Das VS
Subhash Kapoor

Editorial Committee

Sh. A. Mohan
Dr. Subir Roy
Dr. S.C. Gupta
Sh. D.C. Misra
Ms. Nandita Chaudhri

Print Production

A K Aggarwal
Anita Arora

Distribution

Anita Bhardwaj
Jasvinder Kaur

WWW Version

Anil Rathore



The Information Technology Ministers of the various Asian Nations met in Hyderabad early this year for taking firm steps to spread the benefits of ICT widely and equitably, through increased co-operation at a regional level. Our lead story in this issue features the prestigious summit and the active role played by NIC as a member of the Indian delegation. Another lead story in the issue delves upon the concept and technology behind the 'Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)' and what they mean for all of us at NIC.

Happy Reading....

Sonal Kalra

Readers Write

Dear Editor,

It was an excellent experience going through the "Informatics" newsletter of NIC. The Technology Update section was fantastic. I would like to suggest that apart from the papers sent by NIC Employees, you may accept and include papers from other departments/offices also.

T. V. Prasad
Sc-C (Dy. Director)
IT Services Department
BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

Dear Editor,

The Informatics Bulletin of NIC gives an excellent idea of IT Projects of different State Governments being implemented through NIC. This would give a much better chance of replication of successful projects by other State Governments at much lower cost. A column in this bulletin to indicate the replication status and experience in this replication of successful initiatives would add great value to this magazine.

Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, IAS
Managing Director,
Bihar State Agricultural Marketing Board

Editor Replies : Your suggestions are indeed valuable and we have forwarded them for due consideration. Keep writing !!

Readers are invited to send their views, comments and suggestions to the Editor through this column. The same, addressed to Editor-Informatics, may be sent to sonal@hub.nic.in

Contents
IN THIS ISSUE

- 03 Special Feature
2nd Asia IT Ministers' Summit
- 05 Special Feature
Virtual Private Networks
- 07 E-Gov Products & Services
ICI facilitates
Cashew/Coconut Development & Export (Cochin)
- 08 State in Focus
Tripura
- 11 District Informatics
Junagadh
- 12 District Informatics
Bilaspur
- 13 E-Gov Products & Services
Koshwahini
- 14 E-Gov Products & Services
Tenders Online
- 15 E-Gov Products & Services
President of India - On the Web
- 16 CYBER GOVERNANCE
- 18 HAPPENINGS

Visit <http://informatics.nic.in/newsonline> for the latest News



► Dr. Shefali Dash & Nandita Chaudhri, NIC HQ

2nd Asia IT Ministers' Summit

Cyber city Hyderabad was recently a witness to a high level seminar and exhibition, bringing together the IT Ministers of Asian countries. They had assembled to utilize this unique forum to exchange their experiences on the quiet ICT revolution sweeping their homelands and in fact the entire world. They also attempted to evolve methodologies to use these experiences for cross-country technology and application exchanges to take Asia to the very pinnacle of development.

● A Unique Event

This international forum was the 2nd Asia IT Ministers' Summit held during 12-13 January, 2004 at the Taj Krishna hotel in Hyderabad, the capital city of the state of Andhra Pradesh. Hyderabad was a befitting choice as it is a city that represents successful government initiatives to use ICT to boost socio-economic development. The Summit was a result of the recognition by governments of Asian countries that there is an urgent need to undertake definitive and firm steps to spread the benefits of ICT widely and equitably, through increased cooperation at a regional level.

The Indian delegation constituted teams



Hon'ble Chief Minister of AP Sh. Naidu addressing the delegates. Seen on the dias (from L to R) : Sh.K.K. Jaswal, Secy (IT), Sh. Arun Shourie, Hon'ble Union Minister for Commn & IT, Sh Thirunavukkarasar, Hon'ble Min. of State (IT) and Sh.S.Lakshminarayanan, Addln Secy (DIT).

from the Deptt of IT and organisations under its aegis including NIC, CDAC,

Media Labs Asia etc. along with some private organizations. The delegation was led by Sh. Arun Shourie, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh. The event saw a spate of informative presentations from delegates from thirty-one Asian countries, lively debates



Delegates at the Asia IT Ministers' Summit

and discussions and also a high-tech exhibition of ICT Applications, in both rural and urban sectors implemented by the government and private organizations.

ICT Applications showcased by NIC at the Exhibition :

● Rural

- ❖ Land Records Computerisation (Bhulekh Soft; Bhoomi; Tamil Nilam)
- ❖ Property Registration
- ❖ Smart Village (e-Panchayat)
- ❖ Community Information Centres (CICs)
- ❖ Rural Bazar
- ❖ DRDA/Panchayat Computerisation (RuralSoft & PriaSoft)
- ❖ eNRICH – Framework for development of portals
- ❖ AGMARKNET
- ❖ Old Age Pension & Insurance Schemes for Rural Women, Widows and Handicapped
- ❖ E-Gram Suvidha

● The World Wide Connection

Web casting infrastructure was set up by NIC at the venue and the entire event was web cast for the benefit of the ICT community in general and the interested people all over the world (*refer box*). NIC also established Internet connectivity using Wi Fi network. Plasma display screens at strategic locations, outside the seminar hall, were set up to display short films on some of the significant projects being showcased.

A Book entitled 'ICT Solutions for Good Governance' was prepared, published and distributed by NIC at the Summit. It showcases NIC's contribution to E-Governance initiatives through software applications/packages and also contains a CD-ROM containing NIC's Treasure Chest of such applications.



The dignitaries visiting the exhibition at the Summit



The NIC Team demonstrating the ICT applications during the exhibition

● Urban:

- ❖ Passport
- ❖ Court MIS
- ❖ Less Paper Office in DGFT
- ❖ Sarathi – Smart Card based Driving License Issuance and Management System
- ❖ Nagar Palika Computerisation
- ❖ Commercial Taxes (STAMINA)
- ❖ Koshwahini (Treasuries) System



Webcast of the Event....

NIC provided Live webcast of the complete event at the second Summit of Asian IT Ministers in Hyderabad. A special webcast control room was setup at the venue of Summit. High speed connectivity was established between the webcast control room and the Internet Data Centre at NIC Headquarters.

Apart from the inaugural ceremony, ten plenary sessions were covered



through the webcast. A CD-ROM containing the various session proceedings and the background papers was then compiled and distributed at the end of each day. The final version of the CD was also prepared with the presentations of the respective speakers. To make the live webcast available to Internet surfers all over the world, a website at URL <http://asiatsummit.nic.in> was setup. Now the sessions are available as video on-demand on the same website along with the copies of the presentations of the various speakers.

A Historic Declaration

At the conclusion of the event, the participants reiterated their resolve to work together on initiatives to promote and strengthen ICT in the region by formulating and adopting the Hyderabad Declaration. The salient aspects of the Hyderabad Declaration are described below.

1. Bridging the Digital Divide

Governments need to identify the right applications in tune with their national priorities, leverage their existing non-

IT infrastructure for proliferating ICT, ensure multi sector partnerships and help evolve sustainable business models that attract non-Government funds, trigger entrepreneurship and generate employment.

2. Standardization for ICT Development in Asia

It is important to promote standards of ICT for inter-operability and for optimization of cost and effort in the development of applications. Standardization efforts have to address areas relating to data, metadata and information interchange besides the business processes that underlie the services.

3. Digitization of Culture

Taking into consideration the fact that traditional expressions of culture are being obscured, diluted and transformed, the Summit proposed to develop an Asia Digital Culture Community for developing regional cooperation, coordinating international collaboration and catalyzing knowledge preservation in member countries.

4. Construction of Broadband Network Environment in Asia

It was noted that broadband network infrastructure as well as IT services, products, applications and content have been deployed rather unevenly across the region. Asian countries, which have modest preparation even in respect of narrow band Internet, can benefit from the experience of the leaders. Different technologies for Broadband Infrastructure, wire line and wireless, are growing in different countries and new ones are being added. These will have to be exploited appropriately depending on the situations in these countries.

5. Internet Affordability, Management and Security

Initiatives undertaken by the member countries should address issues relating to technology options for access in the last mile, the cost, availability and quality of access and explore the alternative approaches to

creating affordable access. The Internet Infrastructure will have the desired beneficial effect on the masses only if appropriate citizen-centric services are provided through



Sh. Arun Shourie (seen here with a visually challenged student) demonstrating tools for integrating physically challenged with the digital world

it. It was recognized that well-architected e-Government initiatives can play a vital role in promoting the development of the region through the use of ICT. The need for creating an environment for promoting compliance to international standards on information security was recognised. A special session on Integration of Physically challenged with the Digital World was also held during the summit

All Good Things ...

The release of the declaration marked a fitting finale to the historic event and its implementation is envisaged to have a profound outcome in terms of benefits of ICT being carried from affluent urban dwellers to the poorest of the poor in Asia.



The NIC Team involved in the IT Asia Summit

For more information, please mail to dash@hub.nic.in



▶ Anjana Chowdhary & R.S Mani, NIC HQ

Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)

Introduction

As all of us are aware of various security issues with the Internet, it has become mandatory to provide safe access to various internal resources to the users who are on the Internet. These users can be on the enterprise network in the Internet or can be from various ISP Dial-up networks. In the recent past NIC has launched the Virtual Private Network (VPN) services for these kinds of users. Some of the activities that will be diverted through the VPN include: Updation of sites through various mechanisms like front-page, ssh, sftp and ftp.

Overview

A virtual private network (VPN) is a private data network that makes use of the public telecommunication infrastructure, maintaining privacy through the use of a tunneling protocol and security procedures. The main purpose of a VPN is to provide any organization the same capabilities as private leased lines at a much lower cost by using the shared public infrastructure. There are three types of VPNs, namely trusted VPN, Secure VPN, Hybrid VPN.

Trusted VPN

A virtual private network consisted of one or more circuits leased from a communications provider. Each leased circuit acts like a single wire in a network that was controlled by customer. The privacy afforded by these VPNs is basically based on the trust that all the routes within the VPN are kept without sharing it with any other customer/ Internet.

This allowed the organizations to have their own IP addressing and their own security policies. The VPN customer trusted the VPN provider to maintain the integrity of the circuits and to use the best available business practices to avoid

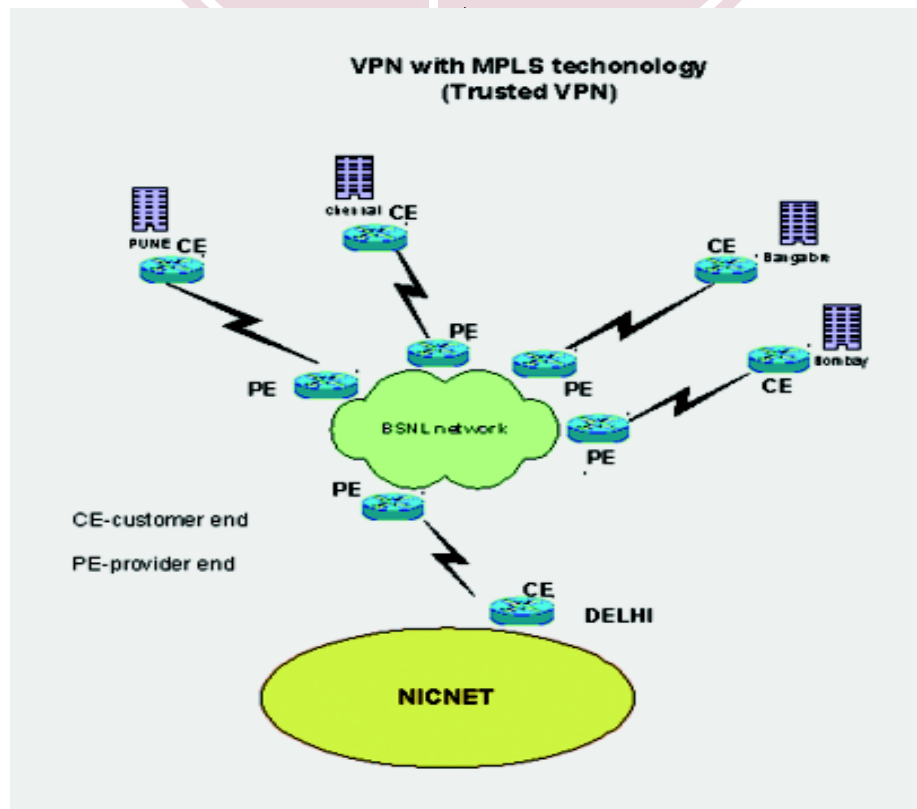
snooping of the network traffic. Thus, these are called **Trusted VPNs**. Trusted VPNs provide assurance of properties of paths such as QoS, but no security from snooping or alternation. In India this kind of VPN is becoming more and more popular as the cost to the organization in building the network is reduced and these are named as MPLS (Multi Protocol Label Switching) VPNs. These can generally be separated into "layer 2" and "layer 3" VPNs. Technologies for trusted layer 2 VPNs include: ATM circuits, Frame relay circuits.

Transport of layer 2 frames over MPLS are as described in draft-Martini L2 MPLS and other related Internet Drafts. Figure-1 shows typical MPLS network where the

customer connects to the local POP of BSNL at that location and creates a virtual Private Network.

Secure VPN

Networks that are constructed using encryption are called secure VPNs. Trusted VPNs offered no real security with respect to data confidentiality, the industry started to create protocols that would allow traffic to be encrypted at the edge of one network or at the originating computer, moved over the Internet like any other data, and then decrypted when it reached the corporate network or a receiving computer. This encrypted traffic acts like it is in a tunnel between the two networks: even if an attacker sees the traffic, he can not decipher the same. No change in the payload can be done by the snoopers/ attackers and the change will get reflected and the end node comes to know of the change and rejects the packet and requests for a re-transmission. Secure VPNs provide security but no assurance of paths.



Secure VPN technologies

This includes IPsec with encryption in either tunnel and transport modes. The security associations can be set up either manually or using IKE with either certificates or preshared secrets. IPsec is described in many RFCs, including 2401, 2406, 2407, 2408, and 2409. IPsec inside of L2TP (as described in RFC 3193) has significant deployment for client-server remote access secure VPNs.

the hybrid VPN. This provides the assurance in the path of traversal and also encryption of payload. The secure VPN acquires the advantages of the trusted VPN, such as having known QoS features.

VPN in NICNET

The VPN Services currently provided in NIC come under the category of secure VPN. (IPSec VPN tunnel between VPN Appliance

the CA server for issuing client certificates

- ❖ RADIUS Server for authenticating the user and application of access control so that the user after having connected to VPN can only access the designated IP and PORT.

In the near future the VPN Services will be using NIC CA Certificates.

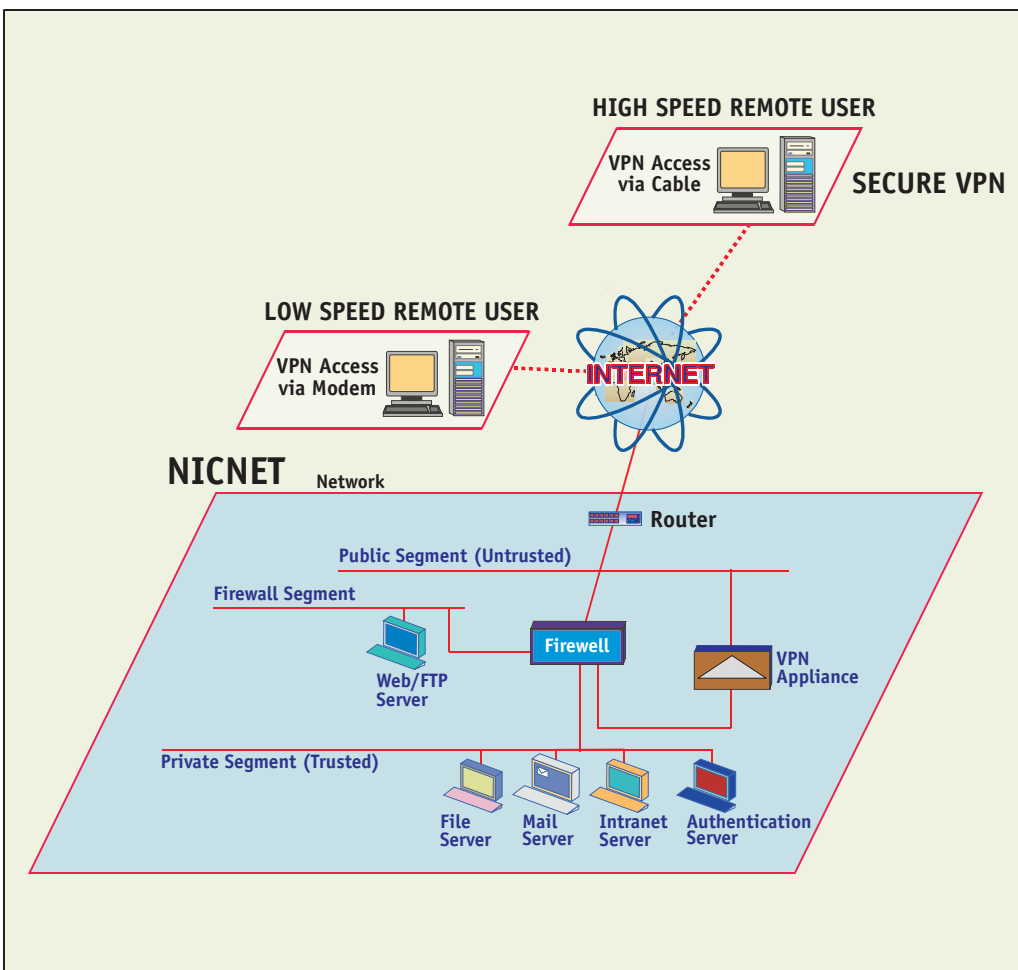
The VPN Service provides a secure communication channel for updating the websites and access to various resources that are internal to an organization. The VPN supports all the IPsec related Internet Standards.

The secure VPN acquires the advantages of the trusted VPN, such as having known QoS features.

A user with a VPN client connects and receives an IP address from the Internet service provider (ISP). This is then replaced by an IP address from the IP pool defined on the VPN Appliance. The user has access to everything on the inside of the firewall, including networks. Users who are not running the client can connect to the web server using the address provided by the static assignment. Traffic of inside users does not go through the IPsec tunnel when the user connects to the Internet. Each user is given access to only those servers which are relevant to the particular web server for updating his page.

The VPN is made available at <http://ftp.ren.nic.in/pub/vpn/> and can be downloaded and installed. The documentation file is also available at the same site. A mailing-list called vpnservices@nic.in has been created to support this service. Any issue with respect to this service can be sent to this mailing list so that it can be addressed.

For further information, mail to vpnservices@nic.in



Hybrid VPN

A secure VPN can be run as part of a trusted VPN, creating a third type of VPN called **hybrid VPNs**. The secure parts of a hybrid VPN is created by the customer himself and is fully under the control of the end user. (such as by using secure VPN equipment on their sites) or by the same provider that provides the trusted part of

and VPN Client). The diagram on this page displays how the VPN services are implemented in NICNET.

Components used for this VPN setup

- ❖ VPN Appliance
- ❖ VPN Client 4.0.3 on a PC running Windows XP/Windows 2000 Prof / Linux
- ❖ A Windows 2003 CA server is used as



▶ Dr. K.S Raman & Julie Zacharia, NITPU Cochin

ICT facilitates Cashew/Coconut Development & Export

Cochin, known as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea" is also the Commercial Capital of Kerala and is as famous its enchanting backwaters and friendly people as for its cashew and coconut production. Enormous potential exists in the City, for the use of Information Technology, especially for the export intensive produce including coir, cashew and cocoa.

The National Information Technology Promotion Unit (NITPU), Cochin under NIC, has been tirelessly providing its support to organizations such as Cashew Export Promotion Council and Coconut Development Board in facilitating their operations through an effective usage of ICT. Some of the important ICT Applications developed by NITPU Cochin for facilitating the development and export of cashew, cocoa and coconut include the following:

● | **Cashew Export Promotion Council (Ministry of Commerce)**

◆ **Membership Information System**

This Software automates the Membership and Registration of Cashew Exporters in the Council, Renewal of Membership and Registration of Cashew exporters in the Council, Export / Import Details of various Cashew items by the exporters, Annual Trade contribution payable to the Council by the exporters.

◆ **Trade Information System**

This Software compiles Daily, Monthly / Annual Export / Import details of different Cashew items received from various sources and generates various Statistical Reports.

◆ **Cashew Price Information System**

This System maintains Cashew Price Information of various Cashew items in Indian markets, London and New York markets. The Council provides various outputs like the trends, comparison, Cashew requirement etc. to the Exporters and publish in the Cashew bulletin.

◆ **Country wise Information System**

This System maintains Country wise Information database. Information maintained includes General Information, Statistics, Tariffs / Duties,

Export / Import information etc.

◆ **Payroll System**

Processing the Monthly Salary of employees, DA arrears, Bonus processing etc.

◆ **PF Management System**

Contributory Provident Fund Management System maintains the PF accounts of the employees.

● | **Directorate of Cashewnut & Cocoa Development (Ministry of Agriculture)**

◆ **File Management System**

The purpose of this computerised File Management System is to monitor the various files that are generated and maintained in the Directorate, within a Financial year, subject wise and seat wise.

◆ **Payroll Processing System**

All the Earnings, Deductions and Recovery details of all employees are processed using this Payroll Processing System.

◆ **Schemes Monitoring System**

The Physical and Financial Targets and Achievements of various centrally sponsored and State Work Plan Schemes of DCCD are monitored using this Schemes Monitoring System.

◆ **Despatch, Diarying and Receipt Monitoring System**

All the Despatch details, Inward Diary details, Payment Receipt details are daily maintained and monitored using the Despatch, Diarying and Receipt Monitoring System.

● | **Coconut Development Board (CDB) (Ministry of Agriculture)**

◆ **Market Information System**

This System is for monitoring the Daily and Weekly Arrival and Price details of various Coconut products traded in different Indian and International markets.

◆ **Personnel Information System**

General Information regarding the employees like the Service Book details, Promotion details,

Training details, Transfer details etc. are monitored using this Software.

◆ **Directory Information System**

The details regarding important Traders, Manufacturers, Importers and Exporters dealing with Coconut Products can be accessed using this Software.



◆ **Stores Monitoring System**

This Software is being used for monitoring all the Technical and Non Technical, non consumable items purchased and used by CDB.

◆ **Journal Subscription Monitoring System**

This Package is developed for monitoring the subscribers and subscription details of all the monthly and quarterly Journals printed and published by CDB.

◆ **Board Decisions Monitoring and Retrieval System**

Details regarding the Board Members, Committee Members, Board Meetings and their decisions and implementations of decisions are being monitored using this Software.

Some of the other information systems under development for the Coconut Board include Farms Activities Monitoring System, etc .

In the words of Sh.V.K Sankaran, Secretary , Coconut Development Board , " NITPU Cochin has been offering excellent services to the Board in areas like consultancy, software development, web designing, computer training etc."

Besides the above, NITPU Cochin has been providing complete ICT support to the Integrated Fisheries Project, Kerala State Construction Corporation, Spices Board and Coir Board. The Services offered include software development, website design and hosting, Training, Consultancy and other ICT related services.

**For further information, mail to
ic_koch@ker.nic.in**



▶ C.K.Dhar & Pradip Roy, NIC Tripura

TRIPURA – following the Action Plan

Tripura is one of the seven states in the north eastern part of India and is famous for its abundant natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and handicrafts. National Informatics Centre saw its emergence in the State in 1989 and since then it has left no stone unturned in rendering various ICT services to the State and Central Government offices located in Tripura. Now the NIC-Tripura State Centre is regarded as Total IT Solution Providers of Government of Tripura and is actively involved in most of the ICT enabled applications and tirelessly motivating the State Government to make use of the latest state-of-art IT tools in their day to day activities.

● | E-Governance Action Plan

NIC has prepared an *E-Governance Action Plan* for the state of Tripura with an aim to accelerate ICT infusion into Government functioning. NIC specialists conducted field level study to assess the present status of ICT implementation in the state and future requirements & chalked out a road-map. The Action Plan, with an estimated cost of Rs 18 Crores envisions the setting up of cost effective ICT infrastructure for different layers of the administration and quick deployment of a few prioritized applications for major State Government departments. The implementation of the first phase of the Action Plan has already been initiated. It is the first initiative of its kind in a North-Eastern State.



Commissioner (IT) & the Director (IT), Govt. of Tripura, handing over DD of Rs. 1.25 Crore to SIO, Tripura for the implementation of e-Governance Projects.

● | Infrastructure Creation

In line with the *E-Governance Action Plan*, NIC-Tripura has also implemented an ICT Project targeting five citizen centric applications at state level. The Project has been executed and implemented at a cost of Rs.1.35 crores having the following major deliverables:

- ❖ Commissioned **OFC** backbone for Secretariat Campus Area Network with an interface to high-speed NICNET gateway at Agartala for Internet services.
- ❖ Agartala City Area Network consisting of 20 LANs located in different state level offices/bhawan and interconnecting such LANs through a 11 mbps wireless (RF) media to Secretariat Campus Area Broadband LAN.
- ❖ A Network Operation Control Centre (NOCC) at NIC-State Centre for Security Management, Access Control and Network Management.
- ❖ Passive Hub based Secretariat LAN has been upgraded to state-of-the art intelligent gigabit switch (L2, L3) based broadband Secretariat Campus LAN.
- ❖ Commissioned and configured Intranet servers for Web Publishing, E-Mail Server, Proxy services, Instant Messaging (IM) and database services on high-end servers.
- ❖ Data replication and regular backup over the wireless (RF) media for five state level E-Governance applications on a high-end RAID based server.
- ❖ Commissioned servers, clients and other peripherals for deployment of Intranet applications of different departments in the Secretariat LAN

● | Citizen centric Services

A G2C Application has been developed for Agartala Municipal Corporation with wireless media based Touch Screen Kiosk Interface at market place. Similar application has been

developed for the Transport Department.

- ❖ Gramoday- Village level resource database for grass root level planning. This is a G2G & G2C web enabled Database application in Bengali script.
- ❖ Khatian/Records of Right for Land owners with touch screen interface & web interface
- ❖ Hospital Management System : Blood Bank, OPD Registration and Central Cash counters

● | Transport Computerization

The operational features of the system, implemented for the office of the Deputy Transport Commissioner (DTC), Agartala, include Motor Vehicle Registration, Tax Calculation and Collection, Learners' Licensing and Commercial permit etc. Touch Screen Kiosk interface for **IT enabled Services (ITeS)** deployed at a market place for viewing Tax Dues and Tax Calculation etc. has become very popular among vehicle owners in Agartala.

Recently, Govt. of India (MoST & H) prescribed VAHAN software, developed by NIC, New Delhi, has been adopted after customization; and all existing databases have been successfully ported into VAHAN format. The various modules of this application software are Vehicle Registration, Fitness, Fee & Tax, Permit and Challan.

● | Community Information Centres (CICs)

In Tripura, 29 CICs have been established and are functional since August, 2002. Each CIC is well equipped with computers, VSAT, TV, Web camera, printers, UPS etc. Two qualified operators are managing each CIC. CICs have been imparting IT training programs for school students, staff of the Block Development offices, elected representatives of 3-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions and common people in rural areas. Services being offered by CICs include Computer Awareness training, E-mail/Internet, Access to Govt. Services (G2C) like Status of different govt. services, Exam Results, Farmers' Tips, Tender Notices, Job Advertisements, Educational Notifications and so on.

● | e-Suvidha - Single Window Interface for SDM Offices

NIC-Tripura has developed and implemented e-Suvidha software for Service Facilitation Centre (SFC) for SDM offices where common people visit to avail different types of services. e-Suvidha software process, maintain and



monitor activities on-line relating to issue of certificates of various natures required by the citizens and such requirements are growing exponentially day by day. Presently twenty two types' of citizen services have been configured and operationalised.



The new version of the software called *e-Suvidha Ver. 2.00* has been released recently which is based on a generalized model that makes the application software easily configurable/ suitable for implementation in any Government organization having Citizen-Centric-Interface. Software runs on client-server architecture on a LAN environment.

● | Healthcare Services Booking System

A web enabled software which provides advance booking facility for different types of diagnostic tests and specialist consultation from the G.B.P Hospital, the state level referral hospital located at Agartala. Booking is provided to rural patients through Block level 29 Community Information Centre (CICs) & private Kiosk in Tripura. The Application software is designed and developed by NIC-Tripura and hosted on state level web server.



Sri Manik Sarkar, Chief Minister, Tripura, inaugurating Health Care Booking Facility for common people.

● | Purbasha Portal

It is well known that Tripura state is famous in Handicraft, Handloom and Sericulture products produced by rural artisans. NIC-Tripura has developed an e-Commerce marketing portal

(<http://www.purbasha.nic.in>) for entire range of handloom, handicraft and sericulture products of **PURBASHA** for strengthening the marketing of such products through on-line showcasing and purchasing, thus adhering to the concept of **RuralBazar Portal**. Discussions with banks are on to integrate on-line payment gateway.

Other Projects

● | RuralSoft

A web based application software for monitoring of S.G.R.Y scheme of Rural Development Department has been implemented in Tripura state through all 29 Community Information Centres. Gram Panchayet wise scheme details are available at <http://tripura.nic.in/rd>. The software has been designed and developed by NIC HQ which is powered by free text search tool.

● | Computerization of Salary Bill

Pay Bill Package developed by NIC-Tripura has been implemented in many state Govt. departments/ offices in Tripura. The package ensures accuracy and timeliness in generation of Pay Bills, Pay Slip, GPF & other loan schedules etc.

● | Computerized Land Records System (JAMI)

With the objective to maintain and update the land records data at Revenue Circle offices and making available Record of Right (ROR) to land owners and other users, Government of Tripura has prioritized the Computerization of Land Records (CLR) project. NIC-Tripura has developed the Land Records Information System software for the state of Tripura which is called **Jami™** in Bengali script using latest software technology and tools. The **Jami** software has been released after a rigorous field level test by a group of Land Revenue officials of Govt. of Tripura for deployment. A web enabled module for Kiosk based Land Information System is also ready for deployment. The software supports the recording and processing of all types of mutation pertaining to land transactions and generate ROR, MIS reports etc. Digitization of Land Records data is nearing completion and shall be ready for Revenue Circle level deployment by April, 2004. The application software has been deployed at one Tehshil in

South Tripura district on a pilot basis.

● | Computerized Land Acquisition Awarding System (CLAAS)

CLAAS software developed by NIC-Tripura covers backend processing of all the mandatory stages involved in Land Acquisition -starting from initiation of proposal for the acquiring department to disbursement of awarded amount (compensation) to the land owner. All the forms, notices and letters relating to the process of Land Acquisition are generated by CLAAS software. Online status of Land Acquisition Cases are available to common people over the net.

● | Revenue Cases Monitoring System (RCMS)

The Revenue cases (Case under section 95 and 96 of TLR & LR Act) are filed in the court of District Magistrate & Collector are being processed and monitored using the RCMS software. The software generates letter to the concerned Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) for field level enquiry, wherever required with a copy to the applicant. The software has a provision to generate the pendency list to the SDMs once in a month. Online status of such cases is available over the net to citizen to know his/ her case status through CICs.

● | Character Verification Cases Monitoring System (CVCMS)

A large number of Verification Roll/ Attestation Forms are being received from different Govt. organization for verification of Character and antecedence of the person selected for government job. Such cases need to be quickly verified and sent to the concerned offices. The CVCMS software has been developed and implemented in North Tripura District. All activities are effectively handled by the system to process such cases for disposal and various MIS Reports can be generated.

● | Passport Cases Monitoring System (PMS)

The personal particulars of the Applicant of Indo-Bangla/ International passport are verified by the Nodal officer of Passport through the SP, DIB. The records of all these applicants are maintained by this software. All the letters of correspondence with Police as well as Regional Passport offices are generated by PMS.



Extremist Violence Cases Monitoring System

The records of the victims affected by extremist violence are maintained by this software. They are given either financial assistance or a Govt. job according to the qualification of the survivor. The software takes care of all these administrative processes/ sub-processes, reports & letter of correspondences involved in giving a job or financial assistance to the victim.

Agartala Municipal Council

With the implementation of Computerized Tax Collection System, Agartala Municipal Council has become the first Municipal in North East to go for IT enabled services to citizen.

e-Purasabha, a comprehensive suite of software solutions, developed by NIC-Tripura has the following modules:

Property and Water Tax Collection System-

Distributed counters at different locations over RF network

Births & Deaths Registration System-

Acknowledgement, Verification and Certificate Printing over the counter.

AMC Website : Municipal Profile & Maps, Grievance lodging, Development works, Budget Information, Downloadable Forms, Procedures, Tax Calculation, Online Electronic Demand Note generation etc.

Touch Screen Kiosk Interface- Tax Payable and Receipt details

Gramoday

A panchayet level web-enabled resource database (in local script) comprising of 18 parameters for grass root level resource based planning purpose. Database is kept at the state Secretariat server and updated by field level official using CIC network.

NIC at High Court- Agartala Bench

List of Business Information System (LOBIS) has been implemented in Agartala bench of Gauhati High Court.

The various activities of the system include filing of fresh cases both for original and Appellate sides, Generation of weekly/ Daily Cause List, Updating of case status on a continuing basis, Caveat entry and searching etc. The weekly Cause List is also available over the Internet (<http://tripura.nic.in>)

Milk Card

NIC-Tripura has developed web enabled e-Milk software in collaboration with state Government for Tripura Milk Producers' Union Ltd for selling Milk Card over the net through authorized E-Governance Kiosk agents for milk retailers and end-customers.

Blood Donor Information System

NIC-Tripura has developed web enabled application software for Blood Donors Association and different Blood Banks and hosted on NICNET state level web server (<http://tripura.nic.in/blood>) which is a unique C2C and C2G application.

Training

NIC Tripura's well equipped training center conducts regular training on different topics for the officers and staff of the state and central Govt. organizations located in Tripura. In house training for NIC officials on the latest technology and tools is also a regular feature.

Websites

Dynamic websites have been developed by NIC for the Tripura State Government as well as many departments, CICs and District Administrations in the State. Various Online services have been made available through these websites which may be accessed through the URL <http://tripura.nic.in>.



NIC Infrastructure in the State

VSAT: SCPC (DAMA) for Data and Videoconferencing at State level and **DVB VSAT** at District Centres with dial-up facility for Internet services at District level

LAN & MAN: OFC and RF backbone based 450 nodes Agartala Town Area Network spread across 22 buildings/ offices

Email: SMTP and web based E-mail server (trp.nic.in)

Internet: Web Server, Database Server and Proxy Servers

Video Conferencing: Studio based Videoconferencing facility at New Secretariat Building

Dial-Up: Cisco Router based dial-up access facility for Internet services.

In the words of Sh.S.K Roy, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (I&C), Govt. of Tripura

"IT solutions provided by NIC-Tripura for Transport Department, Agartala Municipal Council and e-Suvidha for SDMs' offices are a few of its kind where ordinary citizens, through computerized services (ITeS) at the counters, could be the direct beneficiary of the State Government's IT initiatives. Quick deployment of such application software demonstrates NIC's dedication and capability to further the causes of IT initiatives of the State Government."

For further information, please contact

**The State Informatics Officer
NIC-Tripura State Centre,
Office Lane, Agartala-799001
Tripura**

E-mail: chayan@hub.nic.in

Call for Articles

Informatics invites its readers to contribute towards the various sections of the bulletin by sending news items/articles reflecting the on-going e-governance activities in various parts of India.

The articles, along with relevant coloured photographs may be sent at the following address :

**The Editor-Informatics
Room No. 379, 3rd Floor
NIC Headquarters
A-Block, CGO Complex
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
Email : sonal@hub.nic.in**



JUNAGADH –Sight on the Future



The Junagadh town is located at the foothills of the sacred hill of Girnar and occupies a special place in the history of Gujarat. In Gujarati “Junagadh” literally means ancient fort. Key tourist attractions of Junagadh includes Somnath temple, Gir Lion Sanctuary and the Girnar Mountains.

● A Start to Technology

Since its inception in 1989 NIC is being recognised as an important arm of the Junagadh district office and a proactive supporter to district administration. Some of the prominent activities of the District Centre in its early days included Computer awareness training programmes, Support during Parliament Elections, Implementation of DISNIC Packages, Transmission of information regarding Fodder transportation through NICMail during Scarcity, Processing of 20,000 applications for LPG Connection etc.

● A Landmark Era

Land Record Computerisation programme was initiated in 1997. Bhesan taluka in the district is the first to get online in the State, thus demonstrating success and roadmap for statewide plan. The Project was inaugurated by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. Keshubhai Patel in May 2001. Land details of all 868 villages in all 14 taluka has been verified and thus was perceived as model for e-DHARA project replication. The target set by Hon. Chief Minister Shri. Narendra Modi to make all taluka of the State to go online with land records could also be met in all 14 talukas. This resulted in selection of Junagadh as the first to go for complete elimination of manual records and a grant from Dept of

IT, Government of India has been sanctioned for the project in the district.

● Jewels in the Crown

- ❖ **Fisheries:-** This system designed for marine fisheries has been implemented as pilot for Veraval & Porbandar fishing centres. This encompasses information on Fish Production, Boat Details, Diesel Subsidy, and Port Surveys etc.
- ❖ **Geo-Mine:-** This package has been developed to handle mineral related activities for Dept. of Geology & Mining. It aims to facilitate Mineral Administration to generate information and effective monitoring pertaining to mineral statistics.

● Other Projects

Museum Information System; Computerised Recruitment system for the District Primary Education Department and LPG Card Holder's Information System (which is widely implemented to target the actual beneficiaries for Kerosene) ; Support activity to Village, Taluka Panchayat & District Panchayat Elections; District Co-Operative Societies, Irrigation, Forest and Animal Husbandry Departments.

● Other Activities

- ❖ Regular trainings for District Administration Officers
- ❖ “Online Time Management System” for Girnar Climbers, an annual event, to calculate effective time and delivery of results, a guide useful for sport coaches and participants.
- ❖ Total support in cases of emergencies and disaster including Flood, Cyclone, Earthquake etc.
- ❖ Deployment of polling staff during Assembly & Parliament election by using randomisation techniques and related activities like detailed posting orders, Vouchers and Result publications on timely and accurate basis.
- ❖ Duty allocation to Flood Control Room staff and posting management to other

district offices during monsoon.

The Success Story continues....

Many other Applications which have been implemented by the NIC District Centre include Citizen Charter and Registry, District Planning Work Monitoring System, Personnel Information System, Arms Licensing, Old Age Pension Scheme, Kerosene Distribution System, Payroll & Provident Fund, Accounting System, Small Savings Scheme etc. Besides, important applications include Stamp Duty and Valuation data, Rainfall System, Mid-Day-Meal System, SWAGAT -



Grievances Monitoring & Reporting to Hon'ble C.M.

● Future Outlook

Civic centers for services like Record of Right, Ration card, One-Day Governance and Citizen Charter are on the anvil with each taluka mamlatdar centers being tuned to provide timely citizen services.

● Core Hub facility

Apart from NIC VSATs the district is connected to State capital through 2 mbps line of GSWAN (Gujarat State Wide Area Network). All Taluka are connected with District & State using 64 kbps Leased line. Video Conference from district to Secretariat at Gandhinagar is also through GSWAN. Other offices like Dist. Panchayat, Treasury, Police and Civil Hospitals are also connected.

**NIC Junagadh District
District Informatics Officer
Atul B Khunti**

**District Informatics Associate
Ibrahim A Badi**

**For further information, mail to
junagad@guj.nic.in**



► Mukesh Ralli, Himachal Pradesh Correspondent

Bilaspur - Rapid Strides in Informatics



Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh is situated in Satluj valley in the outer hills and covers an area of 1,167 sq. Kms. The district headquarter is 85 Kms from Shimla the capital of Himachal Pradesh. The New Township Bilaspur is generally considered to be the first planned hill town of the Country.

NIC at Bilaspur

The District Centre of NIC was established in the year 1988 and since then is giving yeoman service to the district administration as well as other departments in the district in spreading ICT. Various software have been developed locally as well as at NIC HP State Centre, which are implemented through NIC District Unit.



In 1996 a District LAN for different branches of District Collectorate was set-up wherein 16 Terminals and 15 Printers were installed in different branches of D.C. Office. This LAN connects not only the important branches of the District Collectorate but also other Departments like Directorate of Fisheries, SP Office and PWD. All the offices connected through this LAN have also been provided with the Internet Connectivity.

Achievements

NIC is not only involved in catering to the direct IT needs but also actively participates

in each & every activity related to IT in the District. Various advances in the computerisation have been achieved and some are briefly mentioned below:

● | **Revenue:** One of the major computerization activity being implemented in the district. The Tehsil Centres are ready and shortly the distribution of Copies of Record of rights will be starting from Tehsils. Other activities computerized are Minor Irrigation Census, Gram Nideshika (Revenue Location Directory based upon Census), Agriculture Census etc.

● | **Welfare:** The disbursement of the pension to the pensioners of various categories like Widows, Old Aged Persons, Handicapped and Lepers is major task for the department. The department is getting immensely benefited with the computerisation as the software helps maintain the pensioner details, ledgers, Money Orders generation on pre-printed Money Orders. Another software namely 'Disability Certificate Information System' helps the department to issue the certificates to the disabled persons for availing various benefits and concessions from the government. NIC District Centre also computerized the information of the survey for the disabled before the issue of the certificates. ICDS related data is entered regularly and is being forwarded to Government of India for further usage.

● | **Finance:** The treasury software was the first major software implemented in the district in the year 1991. Database being created in this software is further utilized as input in the computerisation exercises in some of the other departments that includes Excise & Taxation, Finance Department, and Education Department.

Apart from above, some other ICT Applications which are in active use include: Co-operative Statistics Computerisation, DISNIC Taxation, Passenger Goods Tax Software, Education MIS, District Court (DCIS) and All India Education Survey 7 (AIES)

E-Governance Centre

In order to give further boost to the ICT spread in the district, an E-governance Centre has also been established recently within the premises of the Collectorate. The E-Governance Centre has been established with the following objectives.

- ❖ Transparency in the working of the Government
- ❖ To ensure greater efficiency, objectivity, accountability and speed in providing services and information to the public.
- ❖ To provide cost effective service and quality of the same.
- ❖ To provide single window for all Govt. Services at District Level.
- ❖ Responsive Administration.
- ❖ To provide a friendly, speedier and efficient interface.
- ❖ To eliminate the middlemen

In the first phase, the Computerisation of Driving License (SAARTHI) has been started in the E-governance Centre. Other e-governance related activities expected to start shortly in this centre include Vehicle Registration (VAHAN), Registration of Land Deeds (HIMRIS), Arms License (ALIS), Passport Form Collection Counter (WEBPASS), Land Records Of Right Nakal (HimBhoomi), Set-up of E-Kiosks to give a citizen interface to the information.

District Website

NIC District Centre has developed the official website of District Bilaspur recently. The website <http://hpbilaspur.nic.in> was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. This Website provides comprehensive information on History, Facts at a Glance, Tourism, Access, Maps, Administration, IT in District, Citizen Services, Martyrs and Gallantry Award Winners, Photo Gallery etc. related to District Bilaspur.

The work of using Information Technology for a better tomorrow does not stop here. NIC Bilaspur is continuously trying to explore new areas where computerisation will help Government as well as common Public.

NIC Bilaspur District Unit

District Informatics Officer
Akhilesh Bharti

District Informatics Associate
Sanjib Kumar Mishra

For further information, mail to
bil@hp.nic.in



▶ Punam Gupta, Maharashtra Correspondent

Koshwahini – Bringing 'Treasury' in the Online Realm

Koshwahini, the IT project for the Finance Department, Government of Maharashtra, covers provision of ICT support to all 33-district treasuries, 292 sub-treasuries, Pay & Accounts office, Mumbai and the development of web based fiscal decision support system. The software has been developed and implemented by NIC, Pune. All 292 sub-treasuries have been provided with a stand alone PC, Printer and a 1200 V. generator. The sub treasury officers generate their daily account using the software provided and then it is transmitted in electronic format to district treasury. All treasuries have been provided with the requisite hardware and user-friendly software which takes care of daily closing of treasury accounts, incorporation of sub-treasury accounts in electronic format, incorporation of electronic bank scroll data.



The Treasury software Ex-ACCT –Software for Expenditure, Audit, Accounts, Cheques and Tokens

Treasury is a vital link in the financial structure of the state government. It is the starting point of recording, classification and compilation of the Public Account in India. Each claim presented on government finance, at the PAO / treasury / sub treasury is scrutinized, passed for payment and accounted. Monthly Accounts for payment and receipt are submitted to Accountant General along with the supporting vouchers, challans and schedules. A comprehensive software has been implemented for online Bill processing and accounting in PAO / treasuries. The functional modules cover: Gate pass, Bill Receipts, Audit, Pension, Delivery, Reconciliation, Personal Ledger Accounting, Receipts, Post Payment Audit, Bill Tracking,

Master Maintenance, Status (MIS for PAO / Treasury Officer). The system has enriched the quality of work of the treasuries and lead to efficient management of the increased workload.

Pension Automation System (PAS)

The PAO / District Treasuries are entrusted with the Pension Disbursement of around 4 lakh pensioners in the State. The system maintains details and history of pensioners, their 12 months payments, commutation, family / nomination, revision and allocation. The data collected is available through the web enabled Query module providing around 22 queries and reports, with graphical representation.

Web Based Decision Support System

Koshwahini includes the web based decision support system launched by Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries, Government of Maharashtra. A centralized database is maintained on a high-end central server located at Mantralaya, Mumbai to support the system. Koshwahini can be accessed through Intranet as well as Internet. The data from 33 district treasuries, 292 sub treasuries and P.A.O., Mumbai is uploaded daily on the central database.

Expenditure/Receipt Management /Budget control

Koshwahini tracks the current status of bills at all 33 District Treasuries & Pay and Accounts office, Mumbai. The system views the expenditure and receipt position in consolidated totals as well as at the voucher and challan level. The vouchers and challans can be displayed with details i.e. deductions for the vouchers, the components forming the gross amount of the bill, expenditure on petrol. Queries can be submitted through a form selecting Region, District, Sub-Treasury, Period, D.D.O. (Drawing & Disbursing Officer), Major Head, Scheme, Detail head, Department. Details of pending cheques with their amounts helps the Finance Secretaries to arrive at the total liability of the Government and control the overdraft position of the state. The expenditure can be viewed vis-à-vis the

budget allotted, the payment for various operational schemes can be monitored and controlled. The system has introduced the transparency in government accounts. It has also demonstrated the need for strong networking and centralized data store, for all Govt. functions.

Extract of Budget Speech March- 2003 by Finance Minister, Maharashtra

"I am happy to state that the Koshwahini website is now in operation on the intranet. It makes available voucher and challan wise information to every one and provides an innumerable variety of reports. It gives unprecedented control to each Mantralaya department over its budget allocations and brings about complete transparency in the working of the treasuries not to mention accuracy and speed in the compilation of accounts. A word of appreciation of the work done by the NIC team and the staff of the Directorate of Accounts & Treasuries on this pioneering task will not be out of place here".

In the words of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, XII Finance Commission

"I was delighted to see the presentation on Koshwahini. This is a pioneering effort to improve the functioning of the treasuries. It is a good example of the application of IT to a very important area. The program shows great imagination and a good understanding of the details. I congratulate every one concerned on this bold initiative."

Message of Hon. Professor D. K. Srivastava, member XII finance commission

"We are very happy to find that Maharashtra has taken the lead in utilizing the grant allocated by the XI th Finance Commission in achieving not only a full computerization of its treasuries and sub-treasuries but also implementing a software for prompt updating and interlinkages of treasuries with apex financial control mechanisms. This is a system that other States may also find useful to adopt to their requirements. We look forward to further interaction with Department of Finance, Maharashtra Government regarding periodic evaluation of the practical success of the KOSHWAHINI. It's proven success will help in achieving more effective financial management in Maharashtra and subsequently in other States also."

For further information, mail to punam@mah.nic.in



Tenders Online - A Comprehensive Solution for publishing Tenders

The Ministries, Departments and Organizations of Government of India as well as the various State Governments keep floating Tenders for a variety of procurement and job functions. Such Tender Notifications are conventionally issued through the Print Media and lately, the individual departments have also been publishing them on their respective websites. However, a need was felt to have a centralized one point resource to search for information on all the tender notifications issued by the Departments, Organizations of Union Government as well as State and UT Governments.

With this objective, a comprehensive web-based solution for publishing Government Tenders from Ministries/departments/organizations of central and state Governments online has been designed and developed by the Web Services and Multimedia Applications Division at NIC Headquarters. This solution enables the respective Departments to directly upload their Tender Notification onto the Web as soon as it is issued.

Salient Features

- ❖ The rights to directly publish and manage the Tender Notifications without any intermediate interface have been provided to the individual Government Departments.
- ❖ Multiple work orders can be entered and managed with the single tender notification
- ❖ Search options are available based on product category, state, city/location, sector, date etc.
- ❖ Automatic archival of expired tenders and archived search.
- ❖ Provision to register with the System so as to subscribe to the latest tender notifications and announcements through email. Whenever a new tender is uploaded or something is updated on the site an email is automatically sent to the subscribers with the link to the latest/updated tender.

Modules and interfaces

This Government Tenders Solution comprises

two main interfaces-

- ❖ Administrator's Interface
- ❖ Web enabled Interface (for viewers)

Administrator's Interface

There are three distinct aspects to this interface pertaining to the administration of the System :

- ❖ User Administration
- ❖ Departments/Organizations registration
- ❖ Tenders Administration

User Administration

This user administration module enables the administrators to add, edit and delete the users. There are three levels of users who can operate the System -

DBA (Database Administrator) : This user has all the privileges including creation of User Administrator & tenders administrator accounts, registration of the departments/organizations etc.

User Administrator : A User Administrator is the middle tier functionary which may create multiple tenders administrators and may register the departments/organizations. A User Administrator for a department can also act as a tender administrator.

Tenders Administrator : This is lowest tier of user hierarchy and has the responsibilities of tender administration of concerned department/organization. The Tender Administrator can enter, upload, edit and modify the concerned tender notifications of his department directly onto the System. Each Govt. office is envisaged to be having one tender administrator.

Department / Organization Registration

A department / organization may publish their respective tenders online only when they are registered with the solution. After the registration, the user administrator assigns a unique user id/password for management of tenders. Registration process is very simple

and user-friendly, where a registration form has to be submitted online giving the complete details.

Tender Administration

DBA, user administrator and tender administrator can use this module.

This module offers the following options -

- ❖ Addition, editing and deletion of the tenders
- ❖ Allows to handle multiple work orders/contracts with the same tender notification.
- ❖ Publish the relevant documents related to tender notification as well as for each of the work order/contract.
- ❖ Has provision to publish amendments or corrigendum of existing tenders etc.

The Technology

The solution is using the index key as tender ID and tender reference no. All the options related with tender administration are based on this index key. This is a web enabled application which can be accessed using any web browser.

This web based application uses scripts, which check for the expiry date and as soon as the last date of submission of the Tender gets over, it automatically removes the tender from the list and places it under the Archives.

Web Enabled Interface (for Viewers)

This Interface allows the visitor to conveniently locate the desired Tender Notification. There are separate modules for New Tenders, Corrigendum, Tenders due in the coming week/fortnight, Tender Types (Buy/Sell, Empanelment, Auction), Product/Services, Search etc. Distinct sections have been allocated for the Tenders of Central Govt Ministries/Deptts, State Govts/UTs, Cities/Locations etc.

Over 400 users have already subscribed with the solution to receive email alerts and announcements and many Government Departments have started using the solution to publish their tender notifications online.

For further information, mail to wsmad@hub.nic.in



► Mohandas VS & Rajesh Sharma, NIC HQ

President of India -On the Web

<http://presidentofindia.nic.in>

The might and authority of the people of India, the largest democracy in the world, which pervades this Republic is represented by the President of the country. The official website of the first Citizen of India was recently revamped and transformed into a graphically appealing and completely dynamic website (<http://presidentofindia.nic.in>).



Hon'ble President with the NIC Team led by Dr. B.K Gairola, DDG

Though the President's Office already had a website for the past few years, a need was felt to enhance the content and visual appeal as well as add some dynamic features which facilitate an interaction between the Hon'ble President and the common citizens. The re-designed Website, a joint effort of the President's Secretariat, the concerned NIC Cell and the Webservices Group at NIC HQ, is an online resource of information about the following: President of India, magnificence and glamour of Rashtrapati Bhavan, presidential retreats, ceremonial functions, Mughal Garden,



Dr.Kalam showing keen interest in the website being demonstrated by Mr. V. Ponraj, Director(TI) (Presidents' office) and Ms. Neeta Verma, NIC

Herbal Garden, a brief about the former

Presidents of the nation, a collection of speeches / lectures / addresses / banquet speeches as well as press releases & recent events in multilingual format using dynamic fonts.

In a special ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, The Hon'ble President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, launched the new website on 25th January 2004. During the event, the President personally appreciated the efforts of the NIC Teams involved in the project.



Salient Features of the Web Site:

- ▶ A special module called "Children's Corner" has been incorporated in the website which enables the children to ask questions to the President through a specially designed form.
- ▶ Lectures and speeches can be downloaded in different formats including Audio/Video. Some of these speeches in languages other than English, such as Hindi and Tamil have also been provided using Dynamic Fonts.
- ▶ The Recent Event & Press Release Sections on the Home Page list the latest events for easy accessibility.
- ▶ The website features an attractive Media gallery which displays various sections of the magnificent Rashtrapati Bhawan in the form of still pictures, audio and video clippings.
- ▶ The Press Coverage section directly links to the online newspaper websites.
- ▶ User-friendly search helps the viewers to

access information based on date, subject, location, title and contents.

Design and Aesthetics

The website has been conceptualized with emphasis on aesthetics blending traditional values and an aristocratic feel. The layout features flexibility for the content managers to add or update new items without disturbing the look and feel of the site. Mellowed user interface design exclusively conceptualized for this site enhances its unique nature. The visual outlook of the site certainly stresses the Indian Identity, which is valued much by an international visitor. The Navigation throughout the site has been designed to keep it simple so that the visitor does not face difficulty in tracking the desired information.

Content Management System

In order to enable the President's Secretariat to update and maintain the website as often



SAN Setup being used to host the website

as desired and with total convenience, a browser based user-friendly Content Management System (CMS) has been developed for the President's Website. All the modules in the websites can be easily updated using this Content Management System without the need for any html authoring. CMS provides a web based user interface for updating the contents of this website, by simply copying the text, images, speeches in various formats, at the appropriate input fields, as well as, upload audio & video version of these speeches which in turn are inserted into the database and then retrieved & presented as a Web Page. The beauty of this site lies in the organization and variety of content & information that it provides and also in terms of ease of navigation and accessibility.

For further information, mail to wsmad@hub.nic.in



CYBER GOVERNANCE

A Glimpse of some of the new websites/portals launched on NIC's web servers.....

● | **Directorate of Pension, Assam**
<http://pensionassam.nic.in>

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi inaugurated the Directorate of Pension, Government of Assam website at Janata Bhawan on 26th February 2004. The website, developed and designed by NIC Assam State Centre contains information about the latest pension cases resolved, procedures, guidelines and forms related to pension for school teachers, districtwise and PPO-wise query for individual cases. The content of the site will benefit all retired teachers and those who are about to go for superannuation.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

● | **J&K State Road Transport Corp**
<http://jksrtc.nic.in>

The Official website of J&K State Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC) was launched by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, J&K, Pt. Mangat Ram Sharma, on 10th of February, 2004 at a function graced by many dignitaries. The Deputy Chief Minister said that though the website is in its infancy but it will go a long way to make useful information regarding history of JKSRTC, Board of Directors, Management Team, Objectives, Package tours, Sight seeing tariffs, what's new (happening in JKSRTC) etc available, not only to people in the country but across the globe. A Distance Fare Calculator is also provided in the website.

Jit Raj, J&K Correspondent

● | **Nagaland State**
<http://nagaland.nic.in>

NIC Nagaland State Centre has designed and developed the Nagaland State Official Website which provides a whole range of G2C Services to the residents of the State. Some of the prominent services include Daily Naganews publish by Directorate of Information of Public Relation, Kohima, various Application Forms of State Transport Department, Scholarship Forms for students,

Utility Forms, Government Tenders, State Electoral Rolls, Exam Results etc. Also NIC Nagaland has designed and launched Websites for all the eight districts of Nagaland within a very short period of time. The District websites contain in-depth information related to various facets of the District Administration.

Kemvu Elah, Nagaland Correspondent

● | **Arunachal Pradesh Police**
<http://arunpol.nic.in>

The website of the Arunachal Pradesh Police Deptt has been developed by NIC State Unit and the site was inaugurated recently in a ceremony by the State Home Minister Sh L. Wanglat at Itanagar. The Minister urged the DG Police to educate all high ranking officials of the department on the use of internet and also for making the police website more informative and interactive for the general public. In his welcome address, Sh. Suresh Roy, DGP, observed that the website will enhance the performance level of police and make it more transparent. The website provides crime statistics, search for FIR status, information on criminals, missing persons, vehicle theft, village directory, and press releases, besides many more information. The efforts of Sh. Dilip Debnath, SIO and the entire NIC team was appreciated by all, for their role in developing this website.

Tasso Habung, Arunachal Pradesh Correspondent

● | **Rohtas District, Bihar**
<http://rohtas.nic.in>

The official website for the Rohtas District of Bihar was recently launched by Sh. Krishna Mohan Srivastava, District & Session Judge, Rohtas in the presence of District Magistrate and other senior officers of District Administration. The website has been designed and Developed by NIC District Centre, Rohtas. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Srivastava praised Sh. Manoj Kumar Panigrahi, DIO, Rohtas for the efforts made

for the development of the web-site. The web-site contains many vital information related to Rohtas District such as District Profile, Historical background, Geographical profile, Statistical Developmental indicators of the district, Tourist places, Elected members information, Incumbency list of district dignitaries, Information Communication Technology (ICT) in the district, NGOs information, District Administration, Welfare schemes, Tourism and many public utility support like Telephone Directory, Photo Gallery etc.

N.K Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

● | **Lakshadweep**
<http://lakshadweep.nic.in>

The picturesque Union Territory of Lakshadweep already had its website for



many years but a need was felt to re-design the site and give it a more comprehensive dynamic look. The Site was redesigned by NIC UT Centre and launched by the Hon'ble Administrator of Lakshadweep, Sri. K.S.Mehra, I.A.S. at Secretariat, Kavaratti. He appreciated NIC for providing complete support towards designing and hosting the web site. The redesigned web site comprises web pages of twenty one departments of the Lakshadweep administration. Each of them have citizen charter, photo gallery and various citizen services online. In his address during the function Sh. Sandeep Kumar, IAS Secretay (IT), Lakshadweep described the site as an "Electronic window to the island territory".

Ajjith Brahmanandan, Lakshadweep Correspondent

● | **Kottayam & Kollam Districts, Kerala**
<http://kottayam.nic.in>
<http://kollam.nic.in>

The official websites of the Kottayam and



Kollam Districts of Kerala were recently developed by the respective NIC District Units. The State Revenue Minister Sh. K.M. Mani inaugurated the Kottayam District website and Sh. A. Ajithkumar IAS, District Collector delivered the welcome speech. Smt. Beena Ciril Podipara, DIO Kottayam



delivered a talk on websites and demonstrated various features of the website. The website of the Kollam District was launched by the Minister for Labour, Govt of Kerala Sh. Babu Diwakaran. Both the websites are quite information rich and delve upon various aspects of the Districts and their administration. Provision of information which is useful from the point of view of the citizens has been the prime objective behind the design of these websites.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

● | **National Judicial Academy, Bhopal**
<http://nja.nic.in>

The official website of National Judicial Academy, Bhopal was recently inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Shri Justice V.N. Khare at New Delhi. This is the first premier institute for training of Judicial Officers at National level. The website was designed and developed by Web Services Division, NIC, Madhya Pradesh and has information about the academy, objectives, background details, rules, composition, programmes, design, etc, as well as beautiful photo gallery covering various photographs of the academy.

Santosh Shukla, MP Correspondent

● | **West Bengal Human Rights Commission**
<http://wbhrc.nic.in>

The official web site of West Bengal Human Rights Commission was launched by the Hon'ble Chairman Justice Shyamal Sen on

26th January, 2004 in the presence of Hon'ble Members of Commission and SIO, West Bengal State Centre. In his inaugural address, Justice Sen expressed his pleasure that NIC had managed to develop and launch the website in merely two weeks and emphasized that "Where there is



will, there is way". He also stated that the commission is planning to automate all its activities as far as possible. SIO, NIC West Bengal delivered a talk on various E-Governance initiatives undertaken by NIC in the state.

Motiur Rahman, West Bengal Correspondent

● | **National Film Archives of India**
<http://nfaipune.nic.in>

The official web site of National Film Archive of India was recently inaugurated by Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of I & B. The website has been designed and developed by NIC, Pune. The website has an array of features such as pop ups on special film screenings, Film circle activities, film appreciation courses etc. The most important feature of the web site is its unique search engine, which allows people to obtain information on films from the silent era to



present day blockbusters. One can get details about the film's director, cast and other details by either entering its title, year of release,

director name or name of the personality.

Punam Gupta, Maharashtra Correspondent

● | **Districts of Chhattisgarh**
<http://chhattisgarh.nic.in>

With the launch of the website of Dhamtari Distt, Chhattisgarh joined the ranks of those Indian States/UTs which have established the presence of All their Districts on the web. The websites of all the 16 Districts of Chhattisgarh State have been developed and recently launched by NIC. The official portal of the State acts as a gateway to these sites which provide a plethora of information on the respective Districts, their industries, places of tourism, district administration, statistics, departments, public utility services etc.

M.K Mishra, NIC Chhattisgarh

● | **Board of School Education, Haryana**
<http://hbse.nic.in>

The web portal of Board of School Education Haryana, Bhiwani was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana, Ch.Om Parkash Chautala, on 5th February 2004 at Education Board Campus. According to Board sources, Board of School Education, Haryana is the pioneer institution in the country to provide Admit Cards along with photograph, signature and Date Sheet through Internet. Besides this, the portal includes information about Education Board; its working, rules and regulations, various branches and Open School Scheme. It also publishes latest news/



events of Education Board. Especially for the students, portal contains information on Date Sheet, syllabus, books recommended & Application Forms for download. The Chairman and Secretary of Education Board complimented NIC for the key role played by it in enhancing the standard of services provided by Education Board.

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent



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.....

● | **Principal Scientific Adviser to GOI visits NIC**

Dr. R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India visited NIC Headquarters on April 1st, 2004 and had a glimpse of the facilities and ICT infrastructure set-up of NIC, including the newly built Internet Data Centre and iNOC Centre. He was briefed about the latest ICT Applications being offered by NIC in various sectors. In his parting comments at the end of his visit, Dr. Chidambaram wrote, " *It was a great pleasure to visit NIC again after a few years and to see the excellent work being done here, which ranges from rural connectivity, e-governance to platforms like CollabCAD. In the future, as India goes ahead on a fast-trak path, the potential of NIC is even higher. I wish NIC all the best in the future.*"

Dr. Kashi Nath, NIC HQ

● | **NIC Assam bags Best IT Stall Award at NEARID 2004 Exhibition**

NIC Assam State Centre participated in the NEARID 2004 Exhibition at Guwahati during



February 14-17, 2004. The NIC stall highlighted various projects of relevance to the theme of the Exhibition, namely, CIC, RuralBazar, AGMARKNET, DACNET etc. The GIS development work at Guwahati and use of Open Source Software was also highlighted in the Exhibition. The Chief Minister of the State who visited the Stall showed special interest in the promotion of Organic Rice through limited E-Commerce as tried out by one of the CICs in Assam (Dhakuakhana in Lakhimpur District).

Notable visitors to the stall also included Minister of Industry, Minister of Agriculture and Union Minister of State for Water Resources.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

● | **'MAHAFOOD' Software Developed**

MAHAFOOD, a web based application has been developed and implemented by NIC for the Food and Civil Supply Department of Govt. of Maharashtra. The system enables automation of the various stages of movement of food grains. This application keeps track of the monthly allotment of essential commodities under various schemes from Centre to State and similarly from State to Districts and also monitors the Lifting and Offtake of the commodities from the Districts.

Moiz Hussain, NIC Maharashtra

● | **"Viswa Gram" Project inaugurated**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Sh. Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Viswa Gram" project at TIMBI Gram Panchayat of UMARALA Taluka of BHAVNAGAR District on 18th January 2004. Power & Petro Chemical Minister Shri Saurabh Patel, Members of Parliament, all M.L.A.s of Bhavnagar District, District Officials, Sh. Rajnish Mahajan (SIO) and Sh. D.K.Jhala from NIC were present.



The Viswa Gram project module "e-Gram Panchayat Monitoring System" is for

maintaining record of village information of all families' data and issue of necessary certificates to citizens. This module has been designed & developed by National Informatics Centre. The Viswa Gram is based on survey form of each individual family of the village, which contains the detailed information of each member of family. This is used to provide many certificates such as Income, Caste, Domicile, Character etc. to citizens. Also, the database of property of each family is maintained to provide necessary certificate and to use in panchayat tax collection property wise. Birth, Death & BPL Beneficiaries data is also maintained to provide respective certificates. The Project has already been implemented in 32 villages of Bhavnagar District and during the function, Hon. Chief Minister distributed the hardware for another 10 village panchayats .

Manoj PA, Gujarat Correspondent

● | **'UDAY' Inaugurated at Uttaranchal**

'UDAY', a system for computerization of the Regional Transport Office, Dehradun was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Transport Sh. Heera Singh Bisht. With this, the process of Vehicle Registration at Regional Transport Office, Dehradun and issuance of Permits at State Transport Authority is completely computerized. The software, also named as



'VAHAN' has been developed and implemented by NIC. Till now, the Modules which have been released for RTO Dehradun are Vehicle Registration, Fitness & Fees Collection. Very soon the already developed module of Tax collection of commercial vehicles would also be started. The inauguration was witnessed by Principal Secretary Transport Mr. N S Napalchayal, DDG NIC Dr. B.K. Gairola, SIO NIC Dr. Rakesh Goel, Additional Secretary



Transport Rajeev Chandra Joshi alongwith other Transport and NIC officials from Dehradun and Delhi.

A.K Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

● | **Research Collaboration between NIC and Stanford University**

The Country has witnessed many ICT Applications in the rural areas to address the issues of information availability , empowerment and sustainability. This phenomenon is common not only to India but also to many other developing nations in the Asia Pacific Region. To study and analyze these initiatives, the prestigious Stanford University has chosen NIC as a partner for a collaborative research project on "Study of Grass root level ICT initiatives in Rural Areas" and to formulate an optimal framework for future projects in this sector. The project from NIC will be co-ordinated by CRISP division, NIC HQ.

DC Misra, NIC HQ

● | **Symposium on IT & E-Governance**

NIC, Yanam conducted a symposium on Information Technology and e-Governance(SITEG) on 9th-10th Jan '2004. During this symposium, the officials from state government departments and students were invited and given a demo on various packages including CDBS, Multipurpose Identification Card (MIC), e-Vidya, e-Citizen Needs, e-Municipality etc. SIO,Pondicherry Sh. A. Venkatesan, Dr.N.Chalamayya, HOD(CS), JNTU, Kakinada, Dr.B.V.N.S.Prakasa Rao,DIO,NIC, Kakinada, and Dr.K.V.S.G.Murali Krishna, Asst Prof, JNTU, Kakinada were special invitees at the symposium.

Sivanandam S, Pondicherry Correspondent

● | **Computerised Rozgaar Disha Kendra in Uttaranchal**

Sh. Narayan Dutt Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttaranchal inaugurated the Rozgaar Disha Kendra in a recently held function at Dehradun. The Govt. of Uttaranchal has converted the Employment Exchange into Employment Exchange and Career Counseling

Center (Rozgaar Disha Kendra). NIC Uttaranchal State Unit has developed software for the computerization of this newly evolved system. After this the vacant posts in state government would compulsorily be filled with registered unemployed persons only. Computerisation will help in monitoring the huge database of Employment Exchanges in an efficient manner. Salient features of the software are Generation of Registration Card, Fresh



Registration with photograph, Backlog registration with photograph, Vacancy Registration, Renewal of Registration, Transfer of Registration, Daily Registration report, Daily Updation List, List of eligible candidates against vacancy as per seniority, Lapse Registration List etc. In addition to other details of the candidates, the software captures the photograph of the candidate with the help of a web camera. The occasion was witnessed by Sh. Heera Singh Bisht, Hon. Minister for Employment & Training, Sh.N S Napalchayal Principal Secretary, Employment & Training, SIO NIC Uttaranchal and other officials from district administration along with members from Press, Media and Public.

A.K Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

● | **'Seva Ratna' Title for Sh.M.Moni, DDG NIC**

Deputy Director General Sh.M.Moni was conferred with the title 'Seva Ratna' by the Centenarian Trust recently for his contribution in extending the applications of



Information and Communication Technology to agriculture and rural development in India. The award was given by the Swamiji Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Avl at a function held at Chennai.

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

● | **e-Dhara Reaches All Talukas in Gujarat**

Gujarat Government along with NIC met the target of going on line with Land Records data in all 225 talukas in the State by January 26, 2004. This was the culmination of years of efforts put in by both Revenue Department and NIC. More than 96 lakhs village forms of 56 lakhs land accounts spread over 18000 villages of the State are fed into the computer. NIC was instrumental in supporting the State Government in this massive process with software support and monitoring the data entry at district level along with the district administration and management of this huge database. State Monitoring Cell (SMC) of Revenue Department carried out the verification process and manages the project along with the officials of NIC State Centre, DIOs/DIAs and district administration. Principal Secretary (Revenue) Smt. Vilasini Ramachandran, I.A.S put on record that "The achievement is not a small one and would not have been possible without the cooperation and technical support of NIC Staff".



Sh.Rajnish Mahajan, SIO Gujarat inaugurating the Anjar Taluka in Bhuj

Manoj P.A, Gujarat Correspondent

● | **Workshop on 'Organizational Issues in Information Systems Development'**

Prof. Geoff Walsham, Professor of Management Studies and Director of Teaching at the Judge Institute of



Management, University of Cambridge, UK, along with Prof. S. Krishna, IIM Bangalore visited NIC HQ and participated in a workshop on "Organizational Issues in Information Systems Development" held on January 8th, 2004. Dr. N.Vijayaditya, DG NIC, and Sh.M.Moni, DDG NIC also addressed the participants during the workshop which aimed at understanding and analyzing the various aspects of Information System Implementation.



Dr. N.Vijayaditya and Dr. Gautam Bose (NIC) along with Prof.Walsham at the workshop

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

● | GIS Workshop at Assam

NIC Assam State Unit organized a two-day workshop on Geographic Information System (GIS) at its training centre at Beltola on December 29 and 30, 2003. Dr. Anil Kr. Goswami, ex-principal, Cotton College, Guwahati and Chairman, WWF, Assam inaugurated the workshop. Officials from a number of State and Central Government organizations attended the event. The resource persons were from Assam Remote Sensing Application Centre (ARSAC), National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Cotton College, Gauhati University, World Wide Fund and NIC. The workshop intended to familiarize the participants about the capabilities and usefulness of GIS tools and to explore the possibilities of sharing of existing spatial data among the various government organizations.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

● | Internal Quality Audit Training

STQC is conducting training Courses on Internal Quality Audit (IQA) for NIC Officers with regards to ISO 9001:2000 Certification

Processes in NIC. Each Course is of 2 day duration and a test conducted at the end of the course qualifies the 'Internal Quality Auditors'. The first training was held on December 2nd and 3rd at NIC HQ and the successful participants were awarded Certificates of Indian Institute of Quality Management, Jaipur distributed by DG(NIC).

Alka Mishra, NIC HQ

● | Traffic Challan Courts Computerisation

NIC - Courts Informatics Division extended software support to the Traffic courts in Delhi and developed a system to computerize the challans issued by the Delhi Traffic police. This has greatly benefited all the Traffic courts in Delhi by minimizing the time duration of generation of various notices, issue of warrants and summons. Printing of receipts has also been made easy with the help of the software. Various registers like Institution Register, Register of Summary Trials and Register of Fine imposed, which are maintained in the respective courts, are now generated without any delay. Case details pertaining to any vehicle or person are found instantaneously with the help of detailed search facility. The Traffic courts' servers are connected to the servers of the Delhi Traffic police for obtaining the data pertaining to the Challans issued by the Traffic police. Facilities are available to enter complaint details, findings & sentence and driving license details for all violators. Important orders like order requiring production of a person in court for answering the charge of offence and order to compel the appearance of an accused are also easily generated with the help of this system. This system developed by NIC has been highly appreciated by the Traffic courts of Delhi.

Sanjeev Kumar, NIC HQ

● | NIC Support during PM's Nagaland Visit

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee made his maiden visit to the state of Nagaland a few months back. Having requested by the State Government, NIC Nagaland State Unit provided complete ICT related support during the visit. The Services provided included Internet Connectivity, Video Conferencing, besides the hardware support.



During a function to mark the launch of mobile services in the State, Hon'ble PM interacted with Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and IT Sh. Arun Shourie over NIC's Video-conferencing.

Kemvu Elah, Nagaland Correspondent

● | NIC-DIT Workshop at Lucknow

A one day Regional Workshop with Northern States on NIC and NICNET Services was held in Lucknow on 3rd March 2004. The workshop was chaired by Sh K.K. Jaswal, Secretary, DIT. Dr. Chandrashekhar, JS e-Gov DIT, Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG NIC, Dr B.K. Gairola, DDG, NIC, Dr. Y.K. Sharma, DDG NIC, Mr. M. Moni, DDG NIC, Sh VK Dharmadhikari, SD DIT, IT Secretaries of Punjab, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh (UT), Jammu & Kashmir alongwith the State Informatics Officers of the seven Northern States participated in the discussions.

After a warm welcome of the delegates Dr.



Chandrashekhar highlighted the National E-Governance Action Plan - recent developments and decisions of GOI. An overview of NIC's services & future plans, its activities & achievements particularly in the seven northern states was presented by DG, NIC. The State's vision, strategy and plans for implementation of e-governance projects in various sectors, their plans for meeting the network and data center requirements and expectations from NIC was elaborated by the secretaries of the different states. In his concluding remarks the Secretary, DIT



appreciated the services being rendered by NIC.

Anshu Rohatgi, UP Correspondent

● | NIC's Support during SAARC Summit at Islamabad

During the XIIth SAARC Summit at Islamabad (Pakistan) in January, NIC setup the VSAT based Internet Connection as desired by MEA & PMO at two locations i.e. P.M. Camp Office (Hotel Serena) and Indian Media Centre (Hotel Holiday Inn).

A team of six members from NIC New Delhi went to Islamabad along with portable VSATs and necessary equipments for providing the data link. These VSATs were installed and high-speed data link was provided at both the locations. The VSAT was installed on SCPC mode and was oriented towards PANAMSAT-10 Satellite Transponder and Internet was provided through NIC's Gateway(NICNET). The Data Link at both the locations was provided at a downlink bandwidth of 1920 Kbps and uplink at 128 Kbps.

In addition to this, NIC also setup a videoconferencing and voice link between P.M. Camp Office, Indian Media Centre and NIC-New Delhi. Apart from providing Internet connection at P.M. Camp office, connectivity was also provided to other Senior members of PM's entourage as well as the Control Room set up at the Indian High Commission. The NIC Team for the Project comprised Mr.



Saprative Sen , Mr. Dayanand Saha , Mr. K.P.Sharan , Mr. Subhendu Dey Choudhury, Mr. Kuldeep Singh and Mr. Joginder Lal Ahuja.

NIC's services during the event were highly appreciated and applauded by the Ministry of External Affairs as well as Prime Minister's Office.

Subendu Dey Choudhury, NIC HQ

● | CAPES Examinations at CICs

The North-East of India consisting of the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, is as well known for its scenic splendor as it is for remoteness and difficult hilly terrain. The region has a large community of students, availing tutelage in all spheres, especially in computers fundamentals. Communication, especially road connectivity is sadly inadequate. Ordinarily, students have to undertake an arduous commute to the state capitals to appear in examinations. However, in the recent past, NIC has brought much needed relief in the form of online examinations using its own CAPES (Computer Aided Paperless Examination System) technology. Now students need travel only to the nearest Community Information Centre (CIC) at the block headquarters to participate in the examinations. Students and teaching institutions have hailed the initiative and look towards government to use IT to further improve educational modalities in the region.

CAPES is a multi-user Online Examination system (Internet/Web based) that is extremely user friendly (GUI based). In CAPES every student needs to have a single computer terminal / PC and should be able to use the mouse. The candidate answers the questions by clicking the mouse on one of the multiple choice answers. The questions are served from a Centralized Question bank from the database server at the NIC HQ in Delhi. The questions are picked randomly from the question bank, hence no two candidates get the same set of questions. The questions are stored in encrypted form to prevent any unauthorized access.

CAPES has recently enjoyed the patronage of DOEACC. DOEACC conduct the Course on Computer Concepts (CCC), an introduction to computers, in the North-Eastern states at their regional centers. Practical sessions are held at the nearest CICs. Select CICs have also been chosen as accreditation centers for CCC and the CIC operators conduct both theory and practical sessions using CIC infrastructure. CCC is a certificate course for which conventional examinations are held

periodically. However, in the months of September, 2003 and January, 2004, a new dimension was added to the CCC programme in the North-East. On 28-29 September, 2003 and 25 January, 2004, NIC conducted on-line examinations using CAPES technology at selected CICs. Students fielded by DOEACC and the CICs as well were able to visit the nearest CIC in the local Block to take an objective exam, instead of having to travel to the regional centers in the state capitals. In Sept, 2003, a total of 150 students participated from 9 CICs. In January, 2004, 208 students appeared from 22 CICs.

The examination was conducted from NIC Hqrs. by the CAPES division. Complete technical support and co-ordination was provided by them to the CIC Operators coordinating the exam, in the form of exchange of emails, chat, telephonic support and a CAPES support website before and during the test. Respective SIOs and DIOs of NIC also contributed critically to the successful conduct of the exam. The exam was a major logistics exercise as many of the CICs are remotely located. Mock tests/Trial runs were conducted prior to the actual exam for troubleshooting. The exam was very successful and it is envisaged that on-line exams will be conducted on an ever increasing scale in the near future.

Nandita Chaudhri, NIC HQ

● | NIC Webcasts Second Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Second Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, the largest gathering of Indian Diaspora from all across the Globe was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi during January 9-11, 2004. NIC provided the Live Webcast Support to the event and also demonstrated its webcast services at a stall in the exhibition held at





the venue. All the plenary sessions at the Summit, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister were webcast live by NIC for millions of viewers all over the world. The sessions were addressed by various Ministers of the Government of India, the Chief Ministers of some Indian States and distinguished luminaries. After the event, the webcast of all the sessions were made available as Video-On-demand at a specially designed website <http://indiadaylive.nic.in>

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

● | **Storage Networking Summit at Mumbai**

The second Storage Networking Summit, a two day international conference organized by the Storage Networkin Industry Association was held at Mumbai during December 3-5, 2003. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr.N.Vijayaditya, Director



General, NIC and was attended by over 500 delegates from all over the world. During his inaugural address, Dr. Vijayaditya stressed on the growing importance of the concept of Storage Networking, especially in the Indian context. A team from NIC attended the Summit which also comprised useful talks and tutorials on the relevant issues.

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

● | **Budget Information System at Karnataka**

Karnataka was the first State in the country to make its mark in Total Budget Computerisation way back as 1991, and now yet another milestone has been achieved in Feb' 2004, with the presentation of the Budget Document under the new environment of Oracle 9i database on Linux 9.0 with Developer 6i front-end.

Budget Information System (BIS), developed

by NIC, embraces all the functions of the Annual State Budget, starting from entry of accounts figures, received from AG's office to the Final documents – Annual Financial Statement, Assets and Liabilities and Budget At A Glance which are presented on the floor of the Assembly. Accurate, aesthetic, slim, bi-lingual (English, Kannada) budget documents are generated through BIS, the modules being integrated into a single menu providing necessary security. District, Department and scheme wise data for plan and non-plan schemes culminate in the Plan and the District (Zilla Panchayath Link) documents. BIS has been well-appreciated by the Finance department as the time involved in the processing and generation of the documents has been reduced drastically and

it is very user-friendly.

S.Lakshmeesha, Karnataka Correspondent

● | **International E-Governance Conference at IIT Delhi**

An International Conference on 'E-Governance' was organized by Deptt of Management



• **Papers/Articles Published by NIC Officers**

• **Title : Exam Results through Internet – the Changing Paradigms**

Authors : Neeta Verma, Sonal Kalra

Publication : i4d (Information for Development) Magazine, Feb'2004 (Vol 11 No.2)

Abstract : The Education System prevailing in most Countries of the world emphasizes on the concept of 'Examinations' as a performance measuring parameter. And directly related with the importance of examination system is the significance of the exercise of properly disseminating the exam results. Till a few years back, it was a common sight to see the students thronging notice boards trying to find their roll number in the list of successful candidates. The emergence of Internet has seemed to transform the above scenario as it has made it possible for students to check their Exam Result in the comfort and safety of their own homes with the 'moment', just a mouse click away. This paper discusses the entire gamut of Publishing Exam Results on the Internet and the way this successful annual activity of NIC has brought about a paradigm shift in the ICT & Education sector in the Country.

neeta@hub.nic.in

• **Title : Meeting the Network**

Author : Ashis Kumar Mahapatra, NIC Orissa

Publication : Journal "Orissa Review", Volume LIX No.6 January' 2004, ISSN: 0970-8669

Abstract : The Internet technology has changed the market requirements. Organisations are now moving from conventional LANs towards the web enabled networking environment. Many organizations already have presence on the World Wide Web, which is the first phase of what is known as "Internet Road Map". The second phase is "LAN to Internet integration", offering a variety of network designs, which include mailing and World Wide Web(WWW) services among other Internet applications. This article covers various networking applications such as Intranet, Virtual Private Networks(VPN), Extranet, Internet Security Consultancy, Virtual Meetings, Video conferencing, Telephone Conferencing, Digital Dialing & Web Chart etc.

ashis@ori.nic.in



Studies, IIT-Delhi during December 18-20, 2003. Hon'ble President of India Dr.A.P.J Abdul Kalam inaugurated the conference which was attended by delegates from various Countries. Dr. N.Vijayaditya, DG (NIC) was also amongst the eminent speakers who addressed the participants on various issues related to e-governance and was awarded a memento by the organizers. A team of NIC Officers attended the conference and also presented some of the prominent e-governance applications developed by the different NIC Centres across the Country.

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

● | **AGMARK Exhibition at Orissa**

NIC actively participated in the AGMARK exhibition organized at the IDCO Exhibition



ground at Bhubaneswar during February 17th -21st, 2004. The AGMARK Stall of NIC was inaugurated by Dr. Bhagirathi Senapati, Vice Chancellor, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology. He was given a detailed demonstration of the Agmarknet Portal and its utility to the farmer community in the Country. The VC appreciated the pioneering efforts of NIC and hoped that it will go a long way in helping the farmers in the Country.

S.K Panda, Orissa Correspondent

● | **Delhi City Civil Court Computerization**

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Sri V. N. Khare recently inaugurated the "Computerization of City Civil Courts of Delhi " project. The primary objective of the computerization project is to alleviate the hardships caused to litigants and reduce procedural problems. A total of 591 P-IV desktop client systems with 375 Dot-Matrix Printers, a Local Area Network (LAN) consisting of 600 Nodes have been established in all the three Court complexes. Software based on three-tier architecture (Oracle 9i DB/Appli-

cation-Server9i / client) has been developed by COURTIS Division NIC(HQ) and implemented. The software caters to the needs of the court staff by providing options from Initial Filing of the case, day to update, preparation of Cause lists, to Digitally signed Certified copies of the Judgments. Apart from this, the software also provides immediate access to information that is of public interest. Each Court complex has a Facilitation Centre, where information like Pending Cases details, Case status, judgment of district courts, Orders/ Proceedings, File Tracing, Cause lists and Notices are provided to the litigants. NIC has provided training to nearly 500 Court staff. The litigant interface applications such as Cause lists of nearly 120 courts and Judgments are available on its website <http://delhidistrictcourts.nic.in>.



Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG (NIC), speaking at the inauguration function

Sanjeev Kumar, NIC HQ

● | **Computerised RTO at Varanasi**

The UP Transport Computerisation Project (VAHAN) got a boost when the Hon'ble Minister of Transport, Uttar Pradesh, Sh. Reoti Raman Singh, inaugurated the Computerised Counters at RTO Office, Varanasi on 18th January 2004 and released a project brochure to mark the occasion.



It is a state-of-art solution developed by NIC, under a secured environment using the latest ICT tools to facilitate single window delivery of e-services like vehicle registration, its fitness, enforcement, tax

collection and permit etc.

'Vahan' also has inbuilt intelligence on Government rules and procedures on tax calculation, i.e the number of seats in a bus, laden weight for trucks, private or commercial vehicle etc. The data entered at the counter is verified, tax due is calculated in a flash, you pay the tax and walk away with the receipt.

Anshu Rohatgi, UP Correspondent

● | **Filing Defects System for Supreme Court**

Starting from 1st January 2004, in close coordination with the Registry of the Supreme Court of India, NIC has implemented 'Filing Defects System' along with the already implemented 'Case-Status Information System' on the Supreme Court's web site.

As soon as a case is filed in the Supreme Court, it is scrutinised by the Scrutiny clerk to make sure that the file is free from Filing defects. The Registry has prepared a list of Filing Defects consisting of 192 items. If the Scrutiny clerk finds any defect in a case, the case is not registered and the list of filing defects found in the case is sent to the Advocate-on-Record who filed the case for rectification. This process usually takes time, depending on the advocate's response. All along the litigant is kept in the dark without knowing the actual reason for not getting his case heard by the court. With the implementation of this 'Filing Defects' application on Web, the litigant will come to know for what reason his case is not listed for hearing in the Supreme Court. He/She can access Filing Defects information either through Diary no. or his/her own name on <http://casestatus.nic.in>.

Sanjeev Kumar, NIC HQ

● | **Public Health Engineering Department, Arunachal goes online**

The Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh went online when its website was inaugurated recently at Video Conferencing Studio of NIC, by Hon'ble Minister(PHE & WS) of Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri S. Ngemu in the presence of Chief Engineer (PHED), Shri G.Padu, State Informatics Officer (NIC), Shri



D.K.Debnath, Shri S.Chakraborty SE, Shri S.R.Dey, SSW cum SE, Shri Toko Jyoti EE, Shri A.N Singh EE (Mech), Officers of NIC and other dignitaries. The Website has been designed by PHE Department with technical guidance from NIC, Arunachal Pradesh State Unit. Hon'ble Minister and Officers of PHE department appreciated NIC for continuous support towards the computerization of PHE department in an endeavour towards e-governance.

Tasso Habung, Arunachal Pradesh Correspondent

● | **Online Treasury at Una, Himachal**

The District Treasury Una went online with the inauguration of the new software OLTIS (Online Treasury Information System) on February 11, 2004. The Deputy Commissioner, Una Sh. Rajneesh, formally inaugurated the OLTIS Software. The software has been developed by the NIC HP State Centre for uniform implementation in the State of Himachal Pradesh. Latest software



development tools and client/server model have been used in its development.

The OLTIS software is based on the work-flow of the Treasuries and data is captured right from the Token stage to its final passing. Besides linkages have been provided for AG office Voucher Level Computerisation, LIC data and departmental Budgetary controls. The special features include online verification of DDO signatures and photos of

messengers, preparation of deduction registers, creation of data files for transmissions and DDO wise expenditure matching against budgeted amounts. The NIC HP was the pioneer in the country in Treasury computerisation when it developed the DISNIC-Treasury software in the 1990s. The earlier version of the software captured data in offline mode.

The NIC District Centre, Una has implemented the software by imparting necessary training to the officials of the District Treasury and installing the software on the server/clients.

Ajay Chahal, Himachal Pradesh Correspondent

● | **Web Enabled Information System for Publications Division**

Publications Division of Govt of India is engaged in dissemination of information about the nation on various spheres of activity and publishes and sells books / journals at affordable prices. Now, these books, journals, CDs and other important literature may be purchased through Internet anywhere any time in the world.

A dynamic web enabled system, fully in Hindi and English, has been developed by the NIC Cell at Press Information Bureau for the Publications Division. Highlighting features of the system include :

- ❖ Provides current Job status in Hindi version



- ❖ of Rozgar Samachar on the website.
- ❖ Enable Hindi book catalogue to choose books according to user's interest.
- ❖ Anyone can subscribe to mailing list of the Division to receive new arrival (Nayai

Perkashan) on their e-mail ID.

- ❖ Announcement about book fair and any important news for net viewer in Hindi (Udhghoshana).
- ❖ Easy remote administration.
- ❖ Remote updating, deletion and modification of books, Journals and CD using form.
- ❖ All corresponding images with their content are migrated directly in the database using web forms.
- ❖ Only authorized users are allowed to update their content remotely with adequate security feature.
- ❖ Division has decided to accept online transaction through credit card or demand draft for selling books, journals and CDs using ICICI payment gateway.

D.H Khan, NIC HQ

● | **Chinese Delegation visits NIC**

A seven member delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Deputy Director General of Department of Facility and Finance, Ministry of Science & Technology of China Madam Wu Boer visited NIC on 24th December'2003. The objective of the visit was to exchange management experiences on the Centre-funded national facilities and services for scientific and technology communities. The delegates were provided a tour of the various facilities and set-up at NIC



Headquarters and there were rounds of meaningful discussion and interaction between the NIC Officers and the visiting delegates.

M.Moni, NIC HQ

This publication is brought to you by:

National Informatics Centre, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India, A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003