Informatics

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Happenings

Best Stall Award to NIC

A Krishi Vigyan Mela was recently organized by the Raja Dinesh Singh Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pratapgarh along with ICAR at Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh. The objective of the fair was to showcase the development work carried out by the Central and State Government in the rural sector using the new technologies. NIC UP State Unit made its presence felt at the event through its stall showcasing web based "Sankhyakiya Patrika Databases" covering dissemination of computerized information related to Agriculture, Rural Development and allied sectors. Scientists from Ministry of Information Technology also demonstrated their schemes related to the Agriculture sector. The Stall of NIC- Ministry of Information Technology was adjudged first among the Government Stalls and for the same, a memento and an award certificate were presented.

Land Records Computerization Inaugurated

Junagadh : The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Sh Keshubhai Patel recently inaugurated the Taluka level Land Records Computerisation carried out by NIC in Bhesan Taluka of Junagadh District. The Land record data of all the villages in the Taluka have been verified and loaded on the server. The Record of Right (ROR) can now be provided at Taluka level and mutation entries can also be made to ensure that the latest records are available. The software has been developed using Visual Basic with SQL server database. The data entry of one taluka is already complete in eighteen districts and verification is in progress. The District Administration thanked NIC Gujarat State Unit for the tremendous support in the Project and especially lauded the efforts of Sh. Atul Khunti, DIO Junagadh.

Training on RuralSoft-2000

🔸 **Chandigarh :** A Training on Ruralsoft 2000 for participants from 19 District Rural Development Agencies [DRDAs] and Directorate of Rural Development was recently conducted at Secretariat for Information Technology [SIT], Haryana. RuralSoft-2000, developed by National Informatics Centre, primarily aims at monitoring of poverty alleviation schemes being implemented through District Rural Development Agencies [DRDAs]. Speaking on the inaugural session, Sh S Parasad, Special Secretary and Director, Rural Development stressed on the application of IT in better monitoring of schemes so that poorest of the poor can be benefited effectively. Sh G S Bansal, State Informatics Officer stressed on the IT enabled applications for the rural people. Sh Sunil Kumar, Technical Director & Project Leader in Haryana, explained the technology and methodology of implementation at DRDA level.

Video Conferencing Update From our Local Correspondent

🔸 **Delhi :** Video Conferencing is one of the popular and highly used services provided by NIC to its user organizations. A one day technical workshop to provide hands on training on working with VC systems and to discuss "Emerging Video Conferencing Trends & Its Applications" was recently organized at NIC Headquarters. The discussion was followed by a live demonstration of Video Conferencing services & hands on session on different videoconferencing systems being provided by NIC. Also some important video conferencing sessions were held recently where NIC provided the service. They include the following :-

🔸 **Inauguration of TECHSAT** : NIC provided the video conferencing services for the inauguration of " Techsat " Project in Gujarat on May 11, 2001 celebrated as the 'Technology Day'. Inauguration was done by Shri Keshubhai Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat and Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Science & Technology, Govt. of India. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat participated in the inaugural function at Gujarat through video conferencing from NIC Headquarters.

🔸 **Telemedicine :** A Conference titled "International Symposium & Workshop on Changing Face of Cardiac Surgery", organized by Safdurjung Hospital was recently held at India Habitat Center. During this conference Five Heart operations were shown live through Video Conferencing from Safdurjang Hospital, New Delhi to a group of around 100 doctors representing various parts of the country as well as abroad. NIC provided the network connectivity for the event using NICNET's high speed satellite network, Portable VSAT and VC Equipment. The conference was conducted at a very high speed of 768 Kbps for better video clarity. All the delegates appreciated the minute details of the operation and were able to interact with the doctor conducting the operation too.

🔸 **Video Conferencing Facility at Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry**
Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry became the latest in the list of Union Territories to have NIC's Video Conferencing facility. At a special function held recently at Port Blair, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands inaugurated the VC Facility in the Island. The function was attended by DG (NIC) from New Delhi through Video Conferencing. The Lt Governor praised NIC for its efforts and support towards providing this facility. With this, the total number of VC studios set up by NIC has gone upto 28 which are located in various parts of the Country. This is one of the largest VC networks of its kind in India.

E - Governance : Success story

Exam Results on the Net

"Exams", the very word is known to cause anxiety and stress in a student's mind. All of us have suffered from examination fever at one stage or the other in our lives. However, in the tough competitive age of today, what causes more jitters in the hearts of students and parents than examinations is the anticipation of "Exam Results". Be it Results of School Board or of any Entrance Exam, anxious students have always thronged the Notice Boards keenly looking for their Roll Number. In view of all this anxiety, nothing can be better than the facility to check out one's result in the safety of one's own home even before it hits the School Notice Boards. That is exactly what NIC's endeavour to "Publish Exam Results on the Net" aimed to accomplish and has successfully been able to achieve. Like the previous years, this year again saw millions of students accessing NIC's special website for Examination Results http://results.nic.in. With its unfailing record of successfully providing various important results through the net, this website has proved extremely popular with a wide range of audiences including students, parents, school authorities and even cyber café owners.

The Set-Up

With the aim of providing fast and smooth access to Exam Results clear in mind, it was imperative for the concerned team of NIC to ensure that the requisite infrastructure was well in place. Dedicated state-of-the-art servers were set up exclusively for publishing the Results. These servers were a combination of Web Servers (at the front end) and Database servers (at the back end). The front end web servers were powered with Windows 2000 and IIS 5.0, while the database servers were set up using SQL Servers. The technologies of 'Load Balancing", 'Multicasting' and 'DNS Round Robin' were used to take care of the peak load on the servers, immediately after the announcement of any result. In addition, staging servers were also set up to enable NIC State Centres to upload and test the results before passing on for final publishing.

Academic, Entrance or Recruitment – we published them all !!

The Service of providing Exam Results was not limited to School Board Results or other Academic Results but also covered various Entrance Examinations and Recruitment Exams.

Academic Results on NIC's Web Servers	
CBSE Exam Results (Class X and Class XII) :	http://cbse.nic.in
CISCE Exam Results (Class X and Class XII)	http://cisce.nic.in
Mizoram School (MBSE) Results	http://mizoram.nic.in/mbse
Andhra Pradesh SSC Exam Results	http://sscap.nic.in
Nagaland Board of School Education Results	http://nbse.nic.in

Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Sec Education	http://goaresults.nic.in
MP Board of Secondary Education :	http://mpboard.nic.in
Manipur Board of School Education Results :	http://manresults.nic.in
Meghalaya Board of School Education	http://results.nic.in/meghalaya
Tamil Nadu State Board Results	http://tnresults.nic.in
Maharashtra State Board Results	http://mahresult.nic.in
Rajasthan State Board Results	http://rajresults.nic.in
Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education	http://hpresults.nic.in
West Bengal Examination Results	http://wbresults.nic.in
CA Final and Foundation Exam Results	http://caresults.nic.in

The Challenges

Publishing results on the Internet is a daunting task involving challenges of all kinds. Due to the large number of students and other interested parties keen to access their results at the earliest, very high traffic has to be anticipated on the website and accordingly the set up has to be made robust and strong. The Results of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) alone fetched a record hit rate of Thirteen Million in a matter of a few hours. (see the table on the next page for details) Most of the Results were launched at quite odd hours such as midnight or early morning and it took an immense co-ordination effort to ensure that the concerned team was always available. And their job didn't end even after the results were declared as they had to monitor the functioning of the servers for many hours after that. Also, the Result data usually arrives at very short notice and the NIC team generally had very little time to work-out everything and ensure that the results are declared well in time.

Another big challenge lies in ensuring the validity and accuracy of the Results Data. Though the responsibility of the same lies with the concerned Board, considering the fact that the issue of Exam results is sensitive and has a lot of binding on the students' morale, NIC gives full technical support to facilitate them in ensuring that the results are free from any errors.

The Highlights

The preparations for the entire exercise of Publishing Results online began sometime in April and by the time this issue went to Press, many new Results were still being launched from various States. Some of the highlights of this year's service of Publishing Exam Results online include the following : - It was heartening to see the North Eastern States such as Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya take keen initiative in publishing their Exam results on the website. Despite all odds due to the connectivity problems in these States, the results were launched in a smooth manner and students benefitted immensely. -The exercise of publishing and disseminating results online was supported by the various District Centres of NIC who consolidated the results Distt/Block/School wise and passed them on to the concerned authorities. - Apart from putting the Results on the website, NIC developed a software for individually sending out the Results through email to schools/students. For instance, the school wise consolidated results of CBSE were sent to the schools who requested for the same. Also, the results for the Exams conducted by the Institute of Chartered Acountants of India were sent individually to all those students through email who had pre-registered for this service.

A Collaborative Effort...

The endeavour of publishing Exam Results online proved successful onlybecause it was a joint effort of all those involved. Since many of the Results came from outside Delhi, NIC State Centres played a valuable role in interacting with the State Board Authorities and carrying out the necessary ground work for the concerned team at NIC Headquarters . Credit is also due to the respective Education Boards without whose initiative and support, such a challenging task could not have been carried out.

Useful Tips and Guidelines

In order to make sure that the Exam Results are published online in a fast and hassle free manner, it is extremely important to receive the data in the proper format. NIC has designed special guidelines giving clear instructions regarding the procedures involved such as those relating to the setting up of databases and writing of requisite ASPs etc. For the benefit of the users, these guidelines have been put up on the WWW at

http://webservices.nic.in/results2001

The mammoth exercise of publishing so many exam results successfully on the net goes on to show NIC's total commitment towards providing effective e-governance services to all sections of the society. NIC's future plans include using the latest and the most advanced technologies to provide even faster and better service to the students in the coming years.

For more information, please contact:
Web Services and Multimedia Applications Division NIC Headquarters
Email : wsmad@hub.nic.in

Haryana - On the Path to Progress

It was here that Lord Krishna preached Bhagwad Gita 3000 years ago, it was here that Rishi Ved Vyas wrote the Epic Mahabharata…the land is a glorious epitome of ancient culture, spiritual values and Vedic References. The year 1966 witnessed the formation of a new State on this very land, the State we all know as 'Haryana'. Comprising nineteen districts and eighty one towns / cities, the State borders the National Capital Delhi and shares its capital Chandigarh with the other neighbouring State of Punjab.

In a span of 35 years, the State has come a long way in terms of development and growth. And a major contributing factor to this growth is the progress made in the field of Information Technology.

NIC in Haryana

The Haryana State Unit of NIC was set up in the year 1988 and ever since, it has been providing unstinted IT support to the State Government. During the formulation of the recent IT Action Plan, it has been decided by the State Government to accord the highest priority to the IT sector and this has given a big opportunity to NIC-Haryana in implementing its e-governance policies effectively in the State. As an important step, a 'Secretariat for Information Technology' has been set up at the Haryana Civil Secretariat and the Chief Minister has dedicated a special "Centre for e-governance". The NIC Cell in Haryana Secretariat is functioning as a Centre for Network Control and Management, Application Development & Management, Internet/E-mail and Web servers Management and Data Management.

Infrastructure Support & Network Services

- **State Level Network:** NIC has established Local Area Networks (LAN) based on structured cabling in Haryana Civil and New Secretariat, CM Office, Secretariat for IT and Finance Department. The networks are Heterogeneous and the external gateways are based on high-speed FTDMA & SCPC VSATs and Wireless RF link to provide dedicated Internet/E-mail services. The Network Management Centre (NMC) for the State Intranet at Civil Secretariat and Wireless RF Hub management centre at Haryana New Secretariat have also been set up. The Infrastructure management support is also being provided to the centres at Land Records, Rural Development, and Directorate of Industries.

- **District Level Network:** NIC IT centres at the District HQ.s are acting as the nodal centres for computerization in the district administration at local level. The centres have been connected to the NICNET via VSAT network. The Internet access has been provided as a central facility at all the

19 districts of Haryana. IT Centres have also been established at offices like DRDAs, DICs, Employment Exchanges, District Courts, ICAR institutes, FCI etc

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Software Development to facilitate e-governance

In its efforts to promote and implement Electronic Governance in the true sense, the NIC Haryana State Unit has developed various Application Software which are proving extremely useful to the State Authorities. Some of the key Applications and Projects along with their salient features are mentioned below :

- **Haryana Registration Information System (HARIS)**: The HARIS provide registration of documents with various security checks, on-line capturing and storing of photos of buyer, seller and witnesses, information of registration fee and maintenance of database and query system. The system is being implemented at 25 Tehsils/Sub-Tehsils.
- **Land Records Computerization Project (LRCP):** The Land Records computerization system involves different sub-systems like Jamabandi creation, Mutation, Khasra Girdavari, Generation of New Jamabandi, On-line query on Land Records Information, Nakal generation and distribution services to public. The project is being implemented in all the districts of the State. The Land Records Query System [LRQS] has also been developed with the objective of providing a Query Service to Farmers, Revenue Officials, and Town Planners.
- **Sarkar Apke Dwar Programme Monitoring System:** This software is helping the CM Office in closely monitoring the prestigious programme of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana. The database has over 25,000 live records. The programme is reviewed regularly by the State level Monitoring Committee headed by Principal Secretary to Chief Minister.
- **On-line Treasuries Information System (OTIS):** The system is a work flow automation application and provides computerization of payments, receipts, budget control with DDOs, linkage to respective bank branch, Information flow to Accountant General Haryana and Finance Department, On-line query as well as Information flow between sub-treasuries, District Treasuries and Directorate of Treasuries and Accounts.
- **House Tax Assessment and Collection System:** The Proforma for House Tax survey has been designed and software development, based on new House Tax Formula of Haryana Government has been initiated. The software for generating House Tax notices, House Tax bills for collection of tax and Issue of receipts, various forms, registers, reports and analysis has also been developed.

Inauguration of HARIS at Kaithal by Sh.L.M. Goyal, Chief Secy, Haryana

🔸 **Food Network (FoodNET):** The State government plans to establish Food Network (FoodNET) connecting all the agencies involved in procurement of food, distribution of food grains etc. The preliminary IT Plan document for Food and Supplies department has been prepared by NIC-Haryana State Unit. As a first step under the FoodNET, a web-enabled application, to monitor daily procurement data, has been developed. The Mandi wise as well as District wise data can be entered on-line through Internet and can also be queried on-line.

🔸 **District Minimum Applications Programme (D-MAP) and District Networking (D-NET) Project**: The project was prepared under the Chairmanship of Secretary IT Haryana. The 14 application packages identified under D-MAP include Public Grievances, Public Information & Facilitation System, Payroll, Dak Monitoring System, Patwari Information System [PATIS], Revenue Recovery Information System etc . The work has started on D-MAP applications and some of the applications are already being implemented at districts. Under District Networking [D-NET] all the main offices under the District Collector are proposed to be networked. D-NET will facilitate automation of workflow and single window Information access and e-mail communication to general public. The Soochana Sagar software implemented at Sonepat is identified as base software.

🔸 **Village Information System of Haryana (VISH):** In order to facilitate the District, Block & Panchayat administration, a standard proforma for collection of data and updation has been devised. The Data Entry & Query System with GIS interface, to depict the results, has also been developed by NIC Haryana.

🔸 **Driving Licenses & Vehicle Registration System:** The Driving License Software developed by NIC Haryana captures on-line photo and signatures. The License is printed and database is created for querying. Different kinds of reports are also generated. The Vehicle Registration Software allows for registration of Vehicles and printing of RC. The Software is operational at five locations

> **A suite of five packages has been developed by NIC Haryana Unit using MS-Visual Basic 6.0 and MS-Access (at the backend). The suite was recently released by the Chief Secretary of Haryana . The packages contained include the following:**

- **Payroll Information System:** This software completely conforms to the various forms approved by A.G. Office Haryana. The database maintains department code, employee code, and various heads of accounts as per the directions of Finance Department Haryana. The software will form the important component of proposed Central Data Repository in future.
- **Personnel Information System:** This software maintains basic permanent information, ACR, awards, punishment and integrity details. The S/W can help in Deployment of staff, Planning transfers, Planning for promotions, filling of vacancies, deciding extension beyond 50 and 55 years etc.
- **DAK (Diary/Dispatch) Monitoring System:** The software keeps a track of the Dak marked to different officers in the department and the status of action taken by them..
- **Court Case Monitoring System:** The software systematically monitors the status of the various types of court cases of the department pending in various courts. vv
- **Meetings Management System:** The software maintains Meeting Notice, Agenda Items, Attendance Sheet, Minutes of the Meeting etc.

Web Services

Realising the importance of World Wide Web and its immense utility for implementing e-governance, NIC Haryana provides a whole range of web services to the State Government. A 'Web Site Policy" has been formulated and released to set the rules in this regard. The official portal web site of Haryana Government "http://haryana.nic.in" , which acts as a window to all web sites of the State Government is updated on a daily basis. Web sites of 15 districts of Haryana, 7 departments and 6 Boards & Corporations have already been developed and are being hosted on the NIC's web server.

Training

Under 100% IT Literacy Programme (ITLP) in Secretariat, NIC has trained over 1200 officials during last one year. Special two-month training for MLAs was conducted. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana inaugurated the MLAs training Programme. The IT awareness training is also being provided by the NIC DIOs to district officials.

GIS Services

The Geographical Information System of Haryana (GISH) is an on-line web enabled application . The users can make on-line queries on administrative framework of Haryana (state boundaries, district boundaries, block boundaries, village boundaries), infrastructure (road network, rail network) and rivers etc. Dynamic roadmap of Haryana that shows

road distances between two cities just on a single click, has also been developed.

Video Conferencing Services

A Video Conferencing Studio has been established to facilitate Video Conferencing with DCs, Other State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments and other Countries. A facility for multi point VC has been established in the office room of the Chief Minister. The ISDN based, VC facility in the State was inaugurated by Chief Minister on 27th April, 2001. The Officers of the NIC Haryana State Unit have been actively assisting the State government in evaluating various IT projects, IT Plans, tenders and other proposals as members of State Technical Committees such as the State level IT steering Committee (IT-PRISM). The District IT Task Forces have also been formed in all the districts under the chairmanship of respective Dy. Commissioner wherein the DIO, NIC acts the Member Secretary/ Technical Advisor.

As a gesture of thanks from the State Government for the commendable contribution of NIC Haryana State Unit towards promoting e-governance, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh O. P Chautala recently honoured Sh. G S Bansal, State Informatics Officer, NIC at a special function.

E - Governance Products and Services

MEDLARS Databases in CD ROM

Information is a vital resource for better heath care, patient management, research and decision-making. Right information at the right time can make a lot of difference and with this aim information services were started by NIC for the MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval Systems) databases in 1986 to cater to the medical community in India. Over the years new CDROM databases have been added and information needs of the medical as well as the S&T community are being catered to. There is a wealth of information currently available from CDROM databases at NIC Headquarters. These databases are

- Allied and Complementary Medicine (AMED) covering the fields of complementary and allied medicine (acupuncture, Chinese medicine,homoeopathy, etc).
- Ei Compendex is a comprehensive interdisciplinary engineering bibliographic database covering engineering journals, conference proceedings and technical reports.
- Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstract (ASFA) offers abstracts from published literature in aquatic sciences including journals and conference proceedings.
- INSPEC, produced by IEEE and covers subjects like Physics, Electronics, Engineering, IT, etc.
- BIOSIS is a bibliographic database covering journals in the field of life sciences including agriculture, biological sciences, botany, etc.
- Micromedex - Computerised Clinical Information System (CCIS), a collection of critically evaluated, fully referenced, current, full-text medical information.
- CABCD covers international issues in agriculture, forestry and allied disciplines in life sciences.
- Popline provides information on population, family planning programs, maternal and child health, environment and other related health issues.
- Cochrane Database is a full-text : database and offers systematic reviews of current medical research.
- PsycLIT presents comprehensive information on psychology and related subjects. Drug Information Full-text/IPA includes all information on drugs, ethics, healthcare, pharmacology, side effects and toxicology.
- Science Citation Index (SCI) is a reference tool covering bibliographic data on published articles and provides citation information on each article.

For further details please contact:
medinfo@hub.nic.in

Ration Card Issue and Monitoring System (RIMS)

From our Daman and Diu Correspondent NIC, Daman Unit has recently accomplished the Ration Card Data computerisation project for the Administration of Daman and Diu. The Hon'ble Administrator of the UT of Daman & Diu, Shri O. P. Kelkar formally announced the implementation of the software, in the presence of MPs, Finance Secretary, Collector and all other Govt. officers of the UT. The Project incorporates the complete software development and implementation, data entry and card printing supervision. Many different types of MIS reports can

also be generated using the system. The same package is now being implemented at Diu district. Some of the salient features of RIMS include the following

- Stores the Ration Card Records in database format for easy retrieval and processing.
- All the Ration Card related transactions are online.
- The activity of the Allocation of the commodities is automated, right from the calculation to the issue of allocation order.
- Searching is very easy and can be done using various criteria.
- The allocation based on the age of person is now dynamically calculated, thanks to RIMS.
- RIMS is implemented on the LAN of the collector office.
- Being a multi user system, other concerned officers can also view updated data on a click of a mouse.
- Different levels of password based security is also incorporated to protect the data from unauthorised access.

For further information, please contact
daman@guj.nic.in

Tripura Government Orders - now on the Intranet

No more searching through the bulky files for Govt orders in the State of Tripura !!. The NIC Tripura State Unit has developed a software for the hosting of Government Orders, Memoranda and Rules and Regulations on the Secretariat LAN. A large number of such orders are now available to the Government employees through the Intranet. Index Server and Site Server have been installed to ensure effective content management and easy searching of the documents. The search facility can be utilized through any browser in a fairly user friendly manner.

For further details, please contact
sio-trpr@hub.nic.in

Land Records Computerisation Project at Orissa

The Tehsil level land records computerisation project was recently launched at Talcher Tehsil in Angul District of Orissa. With this, Talcher became the first tehsil in the district where the land records shall be fully computerised. A total of 56191 khatiyans in 9 R.I circles for 440 villages of Talcher Tehsil have been already entered into the system so that people get the computerised copy of the "Record of Rights" without delay. The project was inaugurated by Dr. Debendra Kr.Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, Orissa.

For further information, please contact
sio-trpr@hub.nic.in

NITPU in the limelight

NITPU Chandigarh – Setting New Standards !!

Chandigarh, the youngest city of India, planned by the famous French architect, Le Corbusier, is situated in the North-West part of the Country. The City serves as Capital of two States, Punjab and Haryana and is under the direct administration of the Government of India as a Union Territory. For its world class planning and architecture, quality life style and pollution free environment, Chandigarh is also known as the **"City Beautiful".**

The National Information Technology Promotion Unit (NITPU) ,Chandigarh, established in May 1996 , is engaged in promoting and providing Internet based services to five states/ regions namely Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh , Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The Centre with a Potential …

Being the Capital city of Punjab and Haryana and also enjoying the status of Union Territory, Chandigarh is the hub of Government, Public and Private sectors. All major private sector service providers have a branch or regional office at Chandigarh. In the current trends of computing paradigm, Chandigarh is witnessing growing IT culture and awareness. The need of promoting IT and IT related services is increasing day by day. The Educational and Research Institutes like the Panjab University, PGIMER, NIPER, Engineering and Medical colleges and scientific organizations like CSIO need fast and reliable mode of communication for their day to day operations. Most of the large organisations or departments are on look out for a single agency as a total solution provider to their needs rather than some one who offers piece meal services. Also, the Industrial area of Chandigarh , Panchkula and S.A.S Nagar (Mohali) have sound concentration of exporters and they are enthusiastic to avail the Internet related services to promote their business. All this makes the opportunity spectrum fairly wide for NITPU Chandigarh as there is a tremendous scope to tap the potential arising out of the growing need for better IT related services.

Range of Services

The NITPU Centre strives to provide a complete range of services to cater to its clientele and the major services offered include the following :

- Web Page Design, Development, Hosting & Maintenance
- Video Conferencing
- Consultancy & Software Development
- Training
- TCP/IP connectivity and client-end training
- Remote login & File Transfer
- Interactive Communication & database access

- Mail services
- Directory services

Video Conferencing

A Desktop Video Conferencing (VC) facility has been commissioned in NITPU Chandigarh which is now connected to more than 25 cities in India .Ever since it has been established , more than 100 VC Sessions have been conducted for about 5,000 users of 200 departments. After the commercialization of the VC Service, NITPU ,Chandigarh became the first VC Centre to organize paid Video Conferencing sessions. Some of the important VC Sessions successfully organized by NITPU Chandigarh include.

- General Elections 1998 and 1999 with PIB,Chandigarh and Election Commission of India New Delhi
- First National conference of Chief Ministers/IT Ministers of different states and UTs chaired by the Prime Minister
- VC Session of inauguration of fiber optic link of BBMB and Power Grid Corporation Limited by Prime Minister from his residence, New Delhi
- The VC session for International conference called " International Spine & Spinal Injuries Conference" on Tele medicine.
- VC Session for All India Council for Technical Education
- VC Session on "Rural Bazar" Project organized for the participants of the "Workshop on Relevance of Internet applications in E-Governance" for IAS Officers of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

Major Web Projects

NITPU Chandigarh has successfully completed the web projects of some of the most coveted organizations in the region. Some of the many important websites launched and hosted by the Centre include :

- Milkfed,Punjab
- Punjab Urban Development Authority
- Postgraduate Instt. Of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER)
- Chandigarh College of Architecture
- Punjab Mandi Board
- Haryana Urban Development authority (HUDA)
- Bhakra Beas Management Board
- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER)
- Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh

Major Achievements

Ever since its establishment, NITPU, Chandigarh has been trying to inculcate IT awareness in Govt departments by way of conducting VC Demonstrations,Training programs and Seminars. Here's a brief on the major achievements of NITPU, Chandigarh in last couple of years.

- Provided Services to more than 300 user departments .
- Organised more than 100 VCs including many paid sessions.
- Developed & Supplied Web enabled User Account management & Usage Statistics package to all NITPUs .
- Supplied 'NITPU Handbook of Networking to all NITPUs.
- 20 paid training programs conducted so far covering 50 User departments and 300 participants.

Through its record and achievements, NITPU Chandigarh is setting new standards for all to follow. The road ahead is long but with its determination and commitment, the Centre is not far from being one of the best service providers in the region.

A VC Session in progress at NITPU, Chandigarh

District Informatics

Muzaffarnagar - the Sugar Bowl of India

Muzaffarnagar located in the northern part of Uttar Pradesh is popularly known as **'the Sugar Bowl of India'.** With a population of 35,41,952 (Provisional fig 2001:Census) the district spreads over an area of 4049 square kilometers and has 5 tehsils, 14 blocks and 1031 villages. The economy of the district is mainly based upon agriculture & sugar industries. Sugarcane is a major cash crop and Muzaffarnagar has the largest GUD Mandi of South Asia.

NIC Muzaffarnagar - A Tough Beginning

The NIC Muzaffarnagar Unit was formally set up in the year 1988 and the initial going was tough by any standards. The foremost task was to generate computer awareness among various government departments and their employees. For this purpose the District Unit backed by the wholehearted cooperation from the district administration arranged computer awareness training programs for the staff & officers of various departments. These programs covered introduction to computers, use of computers in office automation, analysis, planning and decision-making, utilities of NICNET and NICMAIL facility etc. The intense efforts soon bore fruits and the Muzaffarnagar District Centre got off to a flying start. Ever since the opening of this Centre in 1988 many projects have been accomplished successfully. All these projects can be broadly divided into three distinct categories

- District Level projects which cater to the specific needs of the District Administration
- State Level projects which tie up the district with the state framework of development
- National Level projects related to the monitoring of development and welfare projects running in the district with the financial help of central government.

Some Tough IT Moves !!

- **Lok Sabha & Assembly Election Duty Computerization:** The extensive work done by the NIC Muzaffarnagar during the last Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections in UP was highly appreciated by the District Administration. An application package was developed locally to computerize some major electoral activities. It covered polling personnel duty assignment, Reserve Duty assignment, Repoll duty Assignment, Counting duty assignment and post analysis of election results. Exhibiting a commendable dedication to duty, the District center staff worked round the clock and participated in the collection of election data, timely transmission of exit poll data and election results analysis.

- **ALIS (Arms License Information System):** Computerization of Arms Licenses is a notable project undertaken by NIC-Muzaffarnagar. The database developed contains the detailed information about the arms licenses issued/renewed. Reports can be generated Thana-wise, Tehsil-wise, Category-wise, List of expiry, Licensee wise etc. This is very user-friendly software developed at the district itself.

- **Rural Development Programs Monitoring:** NIC-Muzaffarnagar is constantly feeding state unit with the monthly progress data of rural development schemes under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Million Wells Scheme, Toolkit, TRYSEM, DWCRA, IRDP, DWS, Ambedkar Gaon, Improved Chullha, 20 point and data of other schemes running in the district. The Unit is also assisting CRISP software running on DRDA's computer.

- **TISNIC (Treasury Computerization):** Treasury Computerization is one of the major projects in which NIC Muzaffarnagar has contributed significantly since its inception. The project involves maintaining an up to date computerized record of the District Treasury. The salient feature of the system is that it is based on on-line data processing whereby all the bills are computerized before they are sent to the banks for payments.

- **PDSNIC (Pension Distribution System):** This state level project was also successfully implemented in the treasury center. All military, education, civil, freedom fighters pensions are being disbursed timely with the help of this software. Automatic Cheque generation is a unique feature of this project.

- **LRC (Land Record Computerization):** For this prestigious national level programmme, separate land record computer center has been set up just adjacent to NIC Muzaffarnagar and the complete data entry of land records is being done in Hindi.

- **Payroll Package:** Payroll software has been implemented in the collectorate and Treasury department. It gives all pay details of the employees and print-outs of the paybill, payslips, schedules and arrears.

- **Widow Pension Project:** 334 cases of duplicate and bogus widow pension could be traced out with the help of computerization of widow pension scheme. The accomplishment recently made the news headlines of local newspapers. Now district administration has requested to cover all welfare pension schemes in the next phase of computerization so that bogus pensioners could be traced out.

NIC-Muzaffarnagar is also facilitating the widespread use of Census'91 and GISTNIC data to all government departments, researchers, and private users and to the common man.

Usng the NICNET Effectively

The NIC District Center, Muzaffarnagar has provided the NICNET communication facility to a wide variety of User Departments such as Land Records, Treasury, Agriculture, DRDA, District Judge, Information office and DIC are using the NICNET facility on regular basis. Realizing that training is an essential factor for any computerization effort, NIC Muzaffarnagar has been organizing a variety of training programmes for the District Auhtorities.

On The Cards

NIC-Muzaffarnagar is also exploring the possibility of setting up very first Information and facilitation Counter of UP

state with the help of district administration. Work is also underway for setting up a computer cell at the District Judge Court and District Election Office. GIS interface with Village development Database is also on the cards.

inside view of NIC Muzzafarnagar

Web Watch

Electronic Governance

Electronic Governance popularly referred to as E-Governance or e-gov is broadly defined as an "application of Information technology to the functioning of the Government". For the past few years, a great deal of focus has shifted to this concept which has varying meaning and significance. Initially, the term was a little more than a general recognition of a confluence of information technology developments and application and use of these technologies by government entities. With the passage of time however, the term is being used as a reference to both current applications of IT to government operations and a goal of realizing more efficient and transparent performance of government functions. E-Governance involves access to government information and services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in a way that is focused on the needs of the citizens. E-gov relies heavily on the effective use of Internet and other emerging technologies to receive and deliver information and services easily, quickly, efficiently and inexpensively.

Here are the references to some of the good resource websites on the topic of E-Governance....

E-Gov Centre, Ministry of Information Technology
http://egov.mit.gov.in

Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India has set up a Centre for E-Governance at MIT. The objective of the Centre is to showcase existing tools and applications in E-Governance and also serve as a forum for government officials, legislators, industry, and various other key players to come together, discuss, learn and explore issues of shared importance. The website of the Centre gives useful links to international sites on e-gov and also provides details about the E-Governance initiatives by the various State and UT Governments in India.

Firstgov, US Government
http://www.firstgov.gov

A one point source of information about the US Government, this site is comprehensive and easy to navigate. The portal site acts as a gateway and connects to 30 million pages of Government information, services and online transactions. Categories on the site include featured subjects, transactions and online services for citizens as well as contact details of various Govt entities and it serves as a good working example of e-governance.

IBM's institute for Electronic Government
http://www.ieg.ibm.com

The Institute for Electronic Government, IBM Corporation (IEG), was founded in 1995 as a resource for public sector leaders worldwide in electronic government. The IEG focuses on issues including public policy as it relates to technology strategy and execution, economic development and education, online citizen and business services, and e-democracy. A highlighting feature of the site is IEG webcasts and IEG TV Channels focusing on various development sectors and how e-gov is making a difference.

Development Gateway
http://www.developmentgateway.org

This World Bank sponsored portal website focuses on global development issues, from which users can access information, resources, and tools, and into which they can contribute their own knowledge and experience. The Gateway aims to help fulfill the knowledge and communication needs of the government officials across the globe regarding development issues as well as promote greater transparency and accountability of government policies and programmes. The portal contains numerous interesting articles and links on E-Governance.

Center for Digital Government, US
http://www.centerdigitalgov.com

US Government's Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute providing government and industry leaders with decision support, research and educational resources to help them effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century. The website offers information on a series of unique programmes covering the critical policy, executive leadership and technology applications surrounding electronic government.

Digital Governance
http://www.digitalgovernance.org

The site is an excellent source of case studies, articles and publications related to digital or electronic governance. Also describes various models of e-gov and how information flow can be handled in the government through the effective use of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies).

Cyber Governance

Under its India Image Programme, NIC provides WWW services to Ministries, Departments, State Governments and other Government organizations. New websites get launched regularly on NIC's web servers located all across the Country. Some of the websites launched during the past quarter include the following :

Jharkhand State
http://jharkhand.nic.in

As a major step towards e-governance in the newly formed state of Jharkhand, the official website of the State was recently launched on NIC's web server. The website, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Babulal Marandi at a special function in Ranchi, contains important information about Jharkhand, its Government, resources, districts, tourist spots, plans and policies of the government etc. The website has been designed and developed by NIC.

Tamenglong District
http://tamenglong.nic.in

The Tamenglong District in the North Eastern State of Manipur recently went online with the launch of its website on NIC's webserver. The website of the District, popularly known as the 'land of exotic orchids' comprises information about the profile, festivals, culture, flora/fauna, places to visit and govt directory of the District. The website, designed and developed by NIC District Unit was inaugurated by Sh.G.K.Pillai, Joint Secretary (Home), Government of India at a function.

UP Vidhan Sabha
http://www.uplegassembly.nic.in

The website of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly was recently launched on the web server of NIC. The website, in Hindi language, gives details about the State Vidhan Sabha , its activities and functions, member details, who's who and the proceedings of the Assembly. Also present on the site is a photo gallery containing important pictures of the legislative assembly. The website was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh Sh. Vishnukant Shastri in the prsence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Rajnath Singh.

Food & Supplies Department Haryana
http://haryanafood.nic.in

The website of the Department of Food & Supplies, Haryana has been launched with the objective of bringing about transparency in the functioning of the Department and providing on-line access regarding important information such as Acts, Rules, Control orders and procedures to the citizens. A special feature of the site is the facility to download the Ration Card application form in Hindi and the complete procedure to be followed for getting a ration card in Haryana. FoodNET, a web enabled system to monitor the procurement of wheat, gram and barley has also been linked to the site. The website, developed by NIC was launched recently by Sh. O.P Chautala, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana.

Orissa Legislative Assembly
http://ori.nic.in/orissaassembly

Orissa's Legislative Assembly has joined other states in having a website of its own The website of the State Legislative Assembly was recently launched on NIC's web server by Sh. Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa at a special function. The website aims to provide easy access to the legislative information and parliamentary

process of Orissa State to the interested visitors from across the globe. Information such as History of the Assembly, Rules and Procedures, Who's Who & Member details etc is available on the website, which has been designed and developed by the Orissa State Unit of NIC.

India's Fight Against Unsafe Net Contents
http://netsafety.nic.in

Taking account of the growing number of pornographic websites on the internet and their hazardous effect, especially on the young and impressionable minds of the children, NIC has developed a website to educate parents about the threat of on-line pornography and ways to combat this menace. This website on India's fight against objectionable net content provides useful information about the prevailing threat and the relevant cyber laws against it. Also given are important links to download porn-blocking software and useful tips for the parents to keep a check on their child's on-line activities.

Azamgarh District Uttar Pradesh
http://azamgarh.nic.in

District Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh recently went online with the launch of its website by Sh.R.N Tripathi District Magistrate Azamgarh. The website provides useful information about the History, Geography, Political, Social & Cultural Activities, Important Phone No's. and Statistical data relating to the District. The dignitaries at the inauguration function appreciated the efforts of the NIC Azamgarh District Unit in developing the website.

From the Editors Desk

The New Look !!!

With this issue in your hands, Informatics Newsletter enters its tenth year !!..Over the past decade, the newsletter has grown steadily into a valuable source of information about NIC and its activities across the Country. And this has been made possible only by the immense co-operation we received from our correspondents and readers sitting in every nook and corner of India. We take pleasure in thanking them all and solicit their support in future too. This issue also seemed appropriate to meet a long standing demand of our readers -that of increasing the coverage and scope of Informatics. Also, with the fast occuring changes and advancements in the field of IT, the importance of "E-governance" has been realised by one and all. And there can not be a better medium than this newsletter to highlight the precious contribution being made by NIC towards promoting e-governance in the Country. So here we are, with a new look and a more comprehensive content, which is focussed on the role played by the various centres of NIC in ensuring effective e-governance in India. Many new sections have been added to the newsletter with this issue and our intention is to present information about the work done by NIC in its true perspective.

We look forward to receiving your feedback on the "New Look" !!

Sonal Kalra

From You to Us

Readers are invited to send their comments/suggestions to the Editor through this column. Your letters may be sent through

email at
inform@hub.nic.in
or by post at the follwing address :
Room No. 427, 4th Floor, NIC Headquarters, A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, N.Delhi 110003

Dear Editor,

The article "Gujarat Earthquake Crisis-NIC lends a helping hand", in the "Limelight" section, has not only shown the Humane face of NIC, but also proved that the NIC officials contribute that EXTRA effort during any calamity, be it the Gujarat or Latoor quake or Cyclone in Orissa. The District Informatics Centres of NIC are also a major strength and they always put in their best during the hour of crisis. The Informatics must cover more such stories from NIC Centres where the common man is directly or indirectly benefited by NIC's efforts.

Ajay Chahal
NIC H.P. State Unit, Shimla

Dear Editor,

The Informatics Newsletter gives NICians & its users a useful insight into the projects & activities happening in other parts of the NIC units. Information on MIS for Revenue Department, Kerala of April-2001 issue helped us in contacting them for sharing the product. It will save lots of efforts & time and lead to high productivity. Limelight section on Gujarat Earthquake Crisis inspired us how NIC can support technically during any type of National Crisis/Emergencies. I suggest to include a Techno-Hive section providing us practical knowledge on technology and Techno-Laugh section giving technical jokes.

Sunil Kumar
NIC Haryana State Unit