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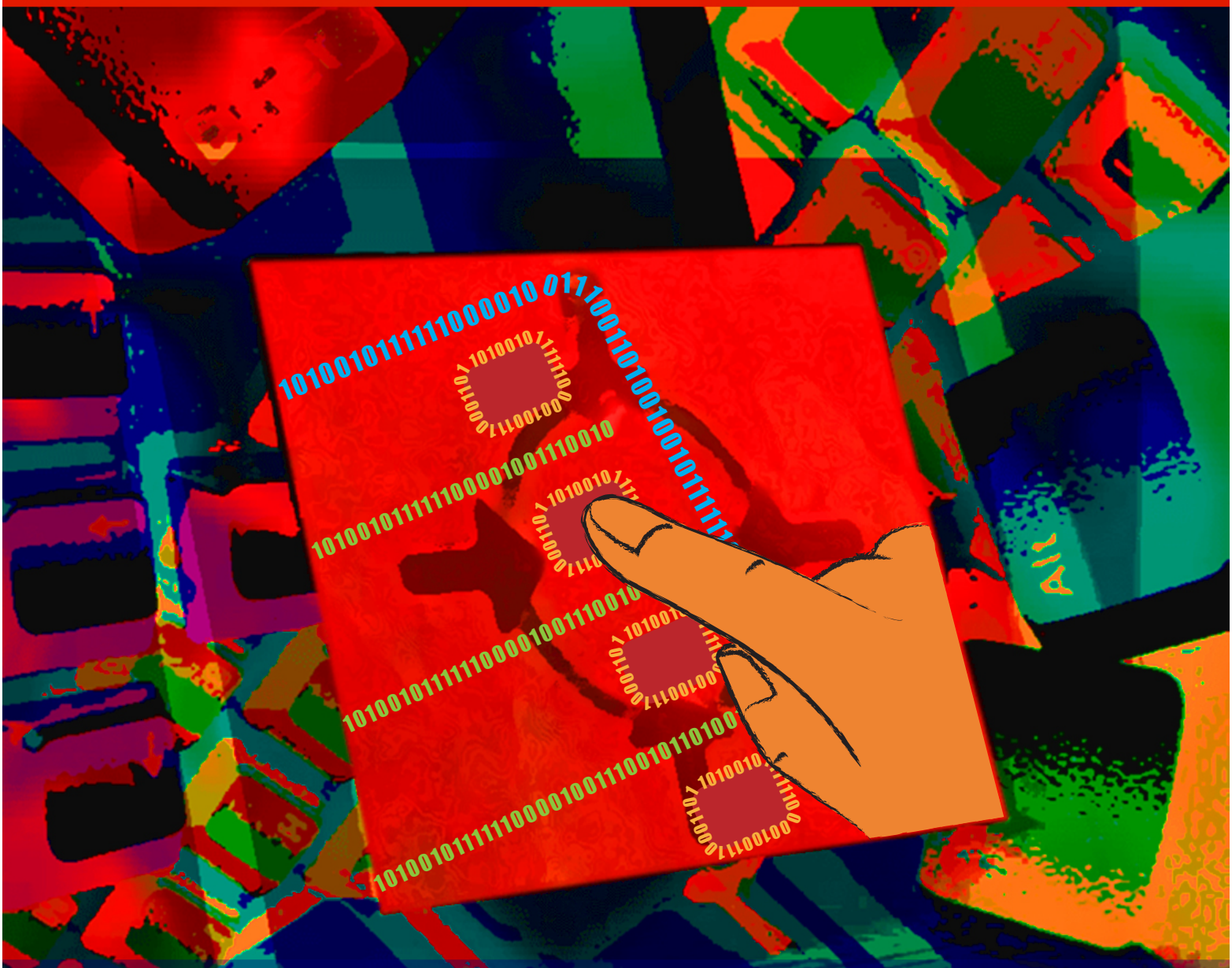

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It was time for the mandatory 'dot' on the finger again as the world's largest democracy went to polls recently. Elections are as big an event in India as it can get..and considering the magnitude of the entire election process, its smooth and successful accomplishment is a significant achievement. In this era of e-governance, technology is expected to act as a crucial catalyst in all processes and Elections is no exception. So the Country saw National Informatics Centre living upto the expectations of it being the premier ICT organization in India when it provided complete ICT support at all possible levels of operation during the Election process. Our lead story, edited by our correspondent from Himachal Pradesh Sh. Ajay Chahal, with inputs from Informatics correspondents based all over the Country, takes you through the journey highlighting the various avenues in which NIC gave its valuable contribution to the Elections.

The other special feature in this issue highlights ELITEX'2004 and NIC's participation in the prestigious annual event. We are proud to report that NIC stall won the 'Best Exhibitor' award in this year's exposition.

Happy Reading.....

Sonal Kalra

For the latest and up-to-date news Visit http://informatics.nic.in/newsonline

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"India is changing, thanks to you people"

Sh. Dayanidhi Maran
Hon'ble Minister of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India during his visit to National Informatics Centre on June 8, 2004

Readers Write

Dear Editor,

Informatics issues are a reminder of the "feeling proud" factor that I am an NICian !! Informatics is an important source to know about the e-governance activities/services of the Indian Government, especially the ones provided by NIC . The online version of the bulletin is quite useful, particularly for Indians living abroad. It would be highly useful if you could also provide information/links/references to other government newsletters/bulletins in India.

Best wishes for a bright future ahead for *Informatics*.

Mohan Das
NIC HQ

Dear Editor,

I wish to take the opportunity to communicate my wishes to the Informatics team on the very informative magazine that you come out with. The information provided is rich and has the necessary depth and coverage appropriate for the communication of it's nature. I wish the team the very best for the future editions.

Binay Rath
Channel Development Manager - Technology
Oracle India Pvt. Ltd.

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

at sonal@hub.nic.in

or by post at the follwing address :

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with inputs from Asha Varma (Kerala), Moiz Hussain Ali (Maharashtra), AK Hota (Orissa), C Chandran (Goa), Deepak Goswami (Assam), Tasso Habung (Arunachal), NK Prasad (Bihar), Vivek Verma (Chandigarh), Manoj PA (Gujarat), Arvind Sharma (Haryana), A.K Sinha (Jharkhand), Santosh Shukla (MP), S Sivanandam (Pondicherry), A.K Dadhichi (Uttaranchal), Md Amir Idrees (UP),M Rahman (West Bengal), Varindra Seth (NIC HQ), Sambeet Mishra (NIC HQ), Nandita Chaudhri (NIC HQ) and Vijay Vishwakarma (NIC HQ).

Elections 2004-NIC's Complete ICT Support

India-the World's largest Democracy went to polls for the 14th LokSabha and 4 State Legislative Assembly Elections of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa & Sikkim during the months of March, April and May 2004. The election process was held in four phases. It was a massive exercise carried out by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The scale of operations could be gauged from the facts that there were 67 crore electors, almost 7 lakh polling stations and over 40 lakh officials who were supported by civilian police and security forces.

While it goes to the credit of the ECI that such a big task has been accomplished smoothly by fair conduct of these polls, this big scale of operations could not be carried without support of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). NIC with its centres in all state and district headquarters provided the requisite ICT support at all levels.

The NIC role during the General Elections 2004 for the 14th Lok Sabha and four State Assemblies Elections was formalized in February 2004, when the ECI approached NIC for country wide ICT support during the Elections and a working agreement was reached between NIC and ECI to work closely during the election period and the non-election period in the following specific areas:

- ISP Services (Internet access through dial-up connectivity)
- Data verification and cross-verification
- Hosting of websites of State Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) on NIC web servers
- Compilation of Email addresses of Returning Officers (RO)/ District Election Officers (DEO)
- Video Conferencing (VC) facilities of NIC

All NIC State and District Centres provided valuable support as per the agreement in totality throughout the country. The NIC Hqrs provided access to ECI for cross verification of result data. The trust imposed by ECI on the authenticity and reliability of NIC's data is evident from the fact that ECI website provided a prominent link to NIC's election results website http://elections.nic.in. After the elections, the Election Commission has also invited NIC to chalk out further plans for enlarging the scope of association between NIC and ECI.

The services provided by NIC offices across the country can be classified as:

- **ISP Services:** The ROs used the RAS connectivity through the NIC districts centres as local ISP service to access the ECI web server and update the GENESYS data online from the counting centres. The Internet services on LAN were used as back up.
- **Data verification and cross-verification:** During counting of votes, NIC created an access-controlled site specifically for ECI. This site contained the list of declared results and the details of winners, losers and the vote details. This site was used by ECI to verify the results of EC with NIC data.
- **Hosting of State CEOs' websites on NIC web servers:** The Election Commission desired that all State Election Department websites be hosted on NIC's secure web servers. Accordingly, most of the websites of CEOs were hosted on NIC servers and some of these were developed by NIC State Centres. ***The strength of NIC is visible in the URLs of 25 CEO websites that are hosted on NIC web servers*** *(http://www.eci.gov.in/links/Links_fs.htm)*. The electoral rolls and scanned affidavits of all contesting candidates were hosted on these websites.
- **Video Conferencing:** Videoconferencing Division provided support to Central Production Centre (CPC), Doordarshan during Elections. Under this programme the field officers of Doordarshan from selected districts were able to share and transfer the Video footage of elections to CPC, New Delhi over videoconferencing. The VC facilities were also used for training of DIOs and election officials on the use of GENESYS software and for monitoring of the election process by some CEOs.
- **Application Software:** Most of the NIC State Centres have developed standard software to cater to the pre-poll, poll day and post poll activities. These software are implemented at the RO level to meet administration needs related to polling parties formation, deployment, tagging, voter turn out, compilation of results etc. The use of EVMs has necessitated that result processing be done on computers at majority of the counting halls and NIC software were used to generate mandatory ECI reports.
- **NIC-Doordarshan (DD) Project:** On the counting days, parliamentary and assembly election results were transmitted to NIC web servers through NIC District Centres keeping DD ahead of other news channels in live coverage.
- **Miscellaneous:** Establishment of Help Lines on telephone/ Ekiosks, Email-Internet access to ROs/Election Observers, providing computer hardware, attending meetings with CEO officials at ECI, New Delhi etc.

Kerala-Trend 2004

The Kerala State Election department had set up a computer network with the software **'TREND 2004'** developed by **NIC, Kerala State Unit**, to declare and disseminate the results of the election from 20 Lok Sabha constituencies covering 140 counting centres. The votes were counted assembly constituency wise. Each counting center was connected through a special telephone line to the control centre set up at the office of CEO to declare the result.

On completion of counting of all polling booths within one assembly segment, the

updated results appeared on computer screen at the collectorate and media centres at all district headquarters.

Shri PJ Thomas CEO, Shri KM Abraham MGP Secretary, Shri VS Raghunathan SIO at the Election review meeting

Maharashtra-Appreciated

NIC Maharashtra State Centre has played a key role in the Parliamentary Elections 2004 in Maharashtra. Maharashtra has 48 parliamentary constituencies and all 35 NIC District Centres and State Centre were involved in the successful election data transmission to ECI and NIC web servers. On the counting day, a control room was set up at NIC State Centre to coordinate result data transmission from districts. There was interaction with Doordarshan Mumbai and DD news video clippings were transmitted using NIC's VC studios via NICNET. **The DD Clipping of NIC State Centre Election activities on 13th May was shown on local DD-Sahyandri Marathi channel.**

The CEO Maharashtra office was provided technical help for GENESYS software implementation for which two Video Conferencing sessions were held with Mrs. Rama Nagpal, Sr. TD NIC Hqrs and all DIOs. Additionally, following software were developed and implemented uniformly by NIC district centres:

- Formation of Polling Parties using randomization technique
- Generation of Polling station wise Poll statistics
- Election counting process

Orissa- Election Management

NIC Orissa State Unit had taken up the Election Management during the simultaneous Election of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly. During this period, the Election Team had taken up the following responsibilities:

- Development and implementation of a centralised Election Management software across 30 districts for formation of polling parties, TA/DA calculation, booth allocation using randomization, report generation.
- Hosting and maintenance of CEO, Orissa website on NIC Server.
- Scanning of affidavits, sending relevant data of nomination and affidavits to CEO, generating voter turnout reports and sending to ECI
- Implementation of GENESYS software for transmission of results data
- Development of an intranet software for capturing the data for Assembly Constituencies and displaying the result.

Himachal Pradesh-Electoral Rolls

Himachal Pradesh was the second State after NCT of Delhi to host the electoral rolls on the Internet at http://himachal.nic.in/electorshp**.** The Himachal rolls are in Hindi and can be searched by name of elector without knowing Hindi keyboard layout. An innovative search feature was designed by NIC Himachal Pradesh State Centre that made the Electoral Rolls popular among Himachal electors. The rolls proved very useful to the general public for the 2003 Assembly elections and 2004 Lok Sabha elections. Just imagine people searching their names, polling station code and address and elector serial number from the website and going to cast their votes without requiring any searching at the polling booths since all details are known to the elector beforehand. Similarly, persons whose names did not figure in the rolls could get their names added in the rolls before the elections so that there were no surprise omissions on the polling day.

During elections, the NIC District Centres provided support in preparation of polling parties and their deployment as per ECI guidelines, implementation of GENESYS software at counting centres, processing of final result sheets in Form 20 and data transmission for the NIC-DD project.

The staff at NIC Mandi busy with the processing of the results data

Goa-Election Information System

NIC Goa was involved in the Election process right from the beginning. The special highlight was the **Election Information System** software, which consisted of three modules for posting of staff, voter turnout and counting of votes. The software was implemented in all the eleven taluka offices of both the districts, the offices of ROs, Observers and CEO by installing computers. The counting centres, CEO and ROs were connected through the GoaNET so that the election progress could be monitored online.

Community Information Centres (CICs) in the 8 Northeast States

During the Elections 2004, the CICs at block level were used extensively to support all aspects of election activity. Some of these are:

- All the 487 CICs disseminated results information to general public and media through result websites created specifically for this purpose.
- Since counting centres were set up at non-district headquarters, CIC network infrastructure and manpower was used to transfer counting data to ROs in **Assam**.
- In **Nagaland**, CICs were used to access electoral rolls information by general public after declaration of elections. Commissioner, Nagaland had appreciated the network services of NIC at CIC level in the State for

timely transmission of Election News.

- The CICs at Serchhip, Mamit, Lawngtlai, Kolasib and Champhat in **Mizoram** were used by respective Deputy Commissioners for data management and transmission of results to ECI using GENESYS software.
- CIC operators in the state of **Tripura** have been engaged in collecting Election Counting Results from the Counting Centres for the NIC-DD Election Project as well as for the Election Commission of India through the State Government machinery.
- In **Manipur**, CIC operators of Kangpokpi, Tamenglong and Jiribam, provided support to the local administration in the conduct of elections.
- In **Meghalaya**, many people visited the CICs, especially in the West Kahsi Hills and Garo Hills, to check their names in the electoral rolls and elections results.

Highlights of NIC's special efforts in some States/ UTs

Arunachal Pradesh: NIC was actively involved in the poll process right from the start and provided support to the Administration in **preparation of electoral rolls** using TERM software

Assam: Apart from providing the routine support in pre-poll and post-poll activities, a highly successful **network-based system was developed to capture counting data** at polling station level by using the services of a number of non-RO (Returning Officer) districts and CICs. The network was partly modem-based and partly VSAT-based. The data capturing and compilation system worked efficiently.
The ROs appreciated NIC and CIC efforts in holding free and fair elections in the State.

Bihar: The **Election Confidential-ELECON** software developed and implemented by NIC Bihar has been in use during the elections since 1991 and gone through a number of metamorphoses, incorporating the latest guidelines of the ECI from time to time. It has been designed as a software tool, takes less time to implement and takes care of almost all election related activities at various stages. The software was implemented for all 40 parliamentary constituencies in the Lok Sabha 2004 poll in addition to the other mandatory support by NIC.

Chandigarh: Software was developed to monitor the **special revision** of summary nature of electoral roll**, campaigns for Election Photo Identity Cards and training of polling staff on the use of EVMs**. The website of the CEO was developed and scanned affidavits of contesting candidates, electoral rolls uploaded on this website. In addition, polling parties formation, two-hourly report on voter turnout, compilation of results, Email support and data transmission were also carried out. Chandigarh being an urban constituency, compilation of elections results was done centrally after getting data from counting centres through the online system and disseminated to the CEO/ ROs /Observers on the WAN.

Gujarat: The NIC Gujarat supported the election authorities at the district level during the conduct of elections by using ICT tools for speed, accuracy and transparency. For years now, NIC Gujarat is **part of the election process right from the election notification stage till the results are declared.** The Election 2004 was no exception and it can be rightly summed that there is no activity at the RO level at the district where ICT tools are not used with the active involvement of NIC District Centres.

Haryana: The Windows based **Election Duty Assignment** software was developed by Haryana State Centre and implemented in all districts to take care of the pre-poll election process activities like Polling Parties formation and their assignment to booths randomly. **HELP LINE** was established through Information Kiosks at the Districts and on telephone for the general public to disseminate electoral rolls information. Two training courses were organised for the nodal officers of Election department and DIOs of NIC for carrying out election related activities in an coordinated and efficient manner. The NIC Officers at State Unit and Districts worked for more than one month without taking any leave even on Saturday/Sunday to complete this process.

Jharkhand: The CEO website was hosted on NIC web servers and kept updated and Electoral Rolls (4GB) for the state were uploaded on NIC web servers. The polling and patrolling teams were formed and deployed using randomization guidelines of ECI, including **tagging of Armed forces and vehicles** at many places. During counting of votes, team formation and compilation of results was done though software developed by the State Centre.

Madhya Pradesh: The NIC State Centre developed a web-based software for **real time compilation and dissemination of results** for all the parliamentary constituencies in the state. Each of the counting centers at the district head quarters was connected through a dedicated telephone line to the NIC district center. DIOs provided their services in compiling and transmitting the assembly segment wise data corresponding to each parliamentary constituency falling in the district.

Pondicherry: The software for polling personnel allotment was developed and implemented using random number generation technique at two stages. Care was taken **to post female polling officers wherever sizeable number of female electors was present**. The de-codification of polling stations was done prior to the actual polling day so as to maintain secrecy regarding deployment of polling parties. Telephone based Help Lines were established for electoral rolls inquiry. Information was captured on polling day every two hours and disseminated to media on polling trends and on counting day, computerized compilation of results was done.

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Santosh Kr Shukla, Madhya Pradesh Correspondent

Tikamgarh : ICT in the Interiors

Tikamgarh, located in the erstwhile ancient Orchha state and a place of great historical importance is situated in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh. The district spreads over an area of 5048 Sq. Km. and has six tehsils and six blocks comprising 971 villages, with a population of 12 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Ms. Uma Bharati, also belongs to Tikamgarh.

NIC Tikamgarh Unit was set up in the year 1988 and with the active participation & coordinated efforts of the NIC MP State Unit and the District Administration, NIC Tikamgarh enjoys its position as a premier IT consultant at the district level. All the projects handled by it can broadly be categorized into National, State and District level projects.

National/State Level Projects –

- **DISNIC PLAN** – For the purpose of decentralized planning, DISNIC National level project has been successfully implemented in which, data of all the villages in the district has been computerized.
- **Treasury Computerization** – Software for district treasury computerization has been successfully implemented in the district treasury.
- **DRDA Computerization** –
  - Establishment of LAN for the DRDA Computerization.
  - Appropriate software for the computerization of BPL Survey data and generation of various reports/queries has been developed. A database of more than 70,000 records was created which is still in use.
  - Software for fund distribution of various schemes and progress monitoring.
  - Software (PRAGATI) which enables the transmission of the monthly progress under various rural development schemes was implemented.
- **Computerization of Land Records –** Land Records computerization project has been successfully implemented in all the six blocks of the district. Computer generated copies of Khasra/B1 forms are being distributed.
- **DCIS-** District Court Information System has been implemented facilitating the generation of daily cause lists. Apart from this, Payroll software has also been implemented for the district court.
- **11 Points Programme-** A database of rural sector on different parameters has been created. Which is updated on monthly basis. Reports are being generated for district administration to improve the citizen centric services and keep track of the status of different facilities.
- **Gyandoot –** Gyandoot is a self sustainable and community owned rural intranet. The project is a G2C model. Computers in 13 village/municipal centers in the district are wired and connected with district server. It offers agriculture commodity rates, Grievance redressal, Rural e-mail facility, Employment News etc.
- **AGMARKNET –** AGMARKNET has been made operational in Krishi Upaj Mandi Samiti, Tikamgarh.

Besides the above NIC Tikamgarh has also been involved in the creation of several databases pertaining to programmes such as Rajeev Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Small Scale Industries, Prime Minister Rojgar Yojna, Child Labour, Pulse Polio Programme, etc.

District Level Projects-

As a part of its constant endeavor to bring about total computerization in administration of the district activities, NIC Tikamgarh has developed and implemented various software including

- Public Grievances Information System
- Arms License Information System
- Kerosene Oil Distribution System
- Merit List Preparation System
- Election Polling Party Formation System
- Below Poverty Line Information System
- Panchayat Directory

Web Services -

The Web Site for the District (**http://tikamgarh.nic.in**)has been designed and developed by NIC Tikamgarh and hosted on NIC's web server. Content of the site is also regularly updated and maintained by NIC Tikamgarh.

Other Activities -

- **Expansion of NICNET :** For the expansion of NICNET, RAS based dialup connectivity has been extended to 20 offices.
- **Touch Screen Kiosk**– In order to introduce e-governance, Touch Screen kiosk has been installed at the composite building. Information about district, Citizen Charter, Public Grievances, 11 Points Programme, Important Telephone Numbers, Bus/Railway Time Table etc, is presently available on it.
- **Training –** Conducting general and need based computer training programme has been an integral part of the activities of the NIC Centre at the district.

Today, NIC Tikmagarh is one of the ever busy and indispensable NIC Centers in the State. Through sheer hard work and constant efforts NIC Tikamgarh has been able to spread the IT culture in the district.

NIC Tikamgarh District Unit

District Informatics Officer
Ratan Kumar Shori

District Informatics Associate
Anil Kumar Jain

For further information, please mail to
tikamgarh@mp.nic.in

H.P Srivastava, NIC HQ

NIC AT Elite X 2004

Enhancing e-readiness

Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications & IT has been promoting research and development in the areas of Information Technology and Electronics through various academic institutions, industries and research labs spread all over the country. To facilitate the dissemination of information on Technologies and Products developed among the users and industry, the Department organizes Electronics and Information Technology Exposition (ELITEX) as an annual event. This provides an opportunity and a forum where participants can swap ideas and experiences in their field.

This year, ELITEX-2004, the seminar cum exhibition was organized during April 26-27, 2004 at Indian Habitat Center, New Delhi. The theme of ELITEX-2004 was "**Technology Vision : India in 2010**" . Dr.R. A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR inaugurated the exposition and Shri K. K. Jaswal, Secretary, Department of Information Technology, delivered the keynote address. In the seminar, Dr. N Vijayaditya, DG(NIC) Chaired the session **"Human Computer Interface"** addressed by various eminent speakers.

The NIC Stall

The NIC Stall in the ELITEX exhibition was set up to display the product and services implemented to facilitate informatics development programs in government at national, state, district and even at village level. A multimedia presentation of various NIC services was made available on the plasma screen to the visitors. Besides this, a large number of posters and brochures, including a special information docket covering details of the various products and services on display were also made available. In addition, NIC provided services of video conferencing and internet connectivity to the event. A Large number of visitors participated in the proceedings through various NIC video conferencing centers.

Sh. Arun Shourie, the then Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR and Shri K. K. Jaswal, Secretary DIT, visited the NIC stall. Dr N Vijayaditya, DG(NIC) and Shri.T A.Khan, DDG (NIC) demonstrated and explained about various projects and services being provided by NIC. A Software Product developed by NIC namely "Manus Granthavali for Manuscript Cataloguing" was released by the Chief Guest Dr. R. A. Mashelkar. There was an overwhelming response of visitors from various organizations at the NIC stall and **the stall was awarded the first prize among the exhibiters**.

The Display

Following Applications / Products were displayed at NIC stall:

Land Records Computerization Project
- DHARANI s - Goa
- HimBhoomi - Himachal Pradesh

E- Governance Applications
- INFOGRAM IT based Services at Village Panchayats, Goa
- GRAM SAMPARK Rural E-Governance, Madhya Pradesh
- NAGARSOFT Electronic delivery of Property related Services, Uttar Pradesh.
- E-PANCHAYAT Comprehensive ICT based Solutions at Village Level. (Village level Self Government), Andhra Pradesh
- E-HOSPITAL Managing Health Services, Andhra Pradesh
- MAS Municipal Administrative Citizen Centric Services - Goa
- LOK MITRA Government to Citizen Portal, Himachal Pradesh
- E-gram Suvidha Geomatics based Facility Management Information System

IT for Masses
- Community Information Centres (CIC) to provide Citizen Centric Services
- Competitive Examination Counselling System (CECS) for All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE)

GIS based applications
- Manus Granthavali for Manuscript Cataloguing
- Monitoring of Social Sector Projects
- National Spatial Database
- GIS based Emergency Planning and Response System for Major Industrial Cluster

E-Commerce applications
- Electronic Commerce(EC)/Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for Trade
- E – License @ DGFT
- Remote EDI System

MIS Applications
- Prison Management Information System (PMIS), Tihar Jail
- Food and Civil Supplies Information System (FCSIS), Maharashtra

Central/State Government Portal
- India Image – Gateway to Government of India Info & services over the web
- IntraNIC – Intranet Portal to empower Employees in an organisation.

Live Webcast

The proceedings of the entire event were webcast live by NIC through the website **http://elitexlive.nic.in**. A special webcast control room was set up for this purpose and the webcast was also shown at the NIC stall for the visitors to know the proceedings of the sessions in main auditorium and other halls. The proceedings could also be viewed through Archives as 'Video-on Demand" after the event.

IN THE WORDS OF DR R.A MASHELKAR, DG (CSIR) AND SECRETARY (DSIR) :

" I was immensely impressed with the stall of National Informatics Centre. The impact of IT on a wide ranging areas that will shape the destiny was evident through the most innovative and creative endeavours of NIC that were displayed. My heartiest congratulations to the entire family of NIC. We are truly proud of you".

NIC at Elite X 2004

Glimpses

Shri T A Khan, DDG(NIC), demonstrating the products on display to Sh. Arun Shourie the then Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT and Shri K. K. Jaswal, Secretary, DIT

Dr N Vijayditya, DG(NIC), receiving Chief Guest Dr.R. A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR and Shri K. K. Jaswal,

Chief Guest Dr.R. A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR releasing NIC Software Product namely "E-granthavali for Manuscript Cataloguing".

Shri K. K. Jaswal, Secretary, DIT, awarding the trophy for the best stall to Shri T A Khan, DDG(NIC).

The team of NICians celebrating the award

Moiz Hussain Ali, NIC Maharashtra

MAHARASHTRA – Progressing fast in ICT

Maharashtra is one of the most progressive states in India, in terms of commercialization of the economy. The state is famous for Industrial sector and Mumbai, its capital is known as the financial capital of India. Maharashtra is also famous for its rich cultural heritage.

NIC in Maharashtra was established at New Administrative Building Mumbai in June 1998 as part of nationwide computer and communication network, NICNET. Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Government of Maharashtra in June 1988 to provide computer and communication services to State Government. Ever since, NIC has been in the forefront of e-governance initiatives in central and state government departments in Maharashtra upto the district and tehsil level. NIC district enters are located in 35 districts of Maharashtra in the Collector's Office. NIC works as Total Solution Provider for IT projects of all departments of the State Government in close coordination with State IT department for providing overall Internet and communication services through NICNET.

Major Services....

- Software Development
- Web Services
- Training
- Video Conferencing
- Web enabled Email
- System Study and Consultancy

ICT in Departments

- **Chief Minister's Office (CMIS):**

CM Information System consists of file information system, registry information system, VIP letter information and CM relief fund monitoring system.

- **Food and Civil Supplies**

MAHAFOOD: Web based food grains allotment and lifting information system for the department of civil supplies and its 35 district offices. (http://maharashtra.nic.in/mahafood)
RISFAD: A client server based reconciliation information system for the office of financial advisor of food and civil supplies department.

- **General Administration**

IASPIS: A web based application for establishment and personnel matters for the IAS cadre officers of Maharashtra implemented in the Secretariat LAN. IAS civil list is prepared using this package.
HAS: Web based House allotment System for allotment of Govt. quarters to Maharashtra Government employees.

- **Law and Judiciary**

CCAS: A client server system for cases automation system for the office of chief presenting officer at Maharashtra State Tribunal.
ACES: Web based application for Adjourned cases enquiry for the office of chief presenting officer at Maharashtra State Tribunal. (http://matmumbai.nic.in)
NIS: A client server based system developed for Notary for issue and renewal of licenses.

- **Home**

KIS: This Software is used to generate daily board to deliver information of cases listed for various courtrooms in the office of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Mumbai.

- **Finance**

Budget: Preparation of State budget and hosting on Web Site (http://finance.mah.nic.in).
TIS: Treasury Information System is implemented in all treasury offices in the state.

- **Employment**

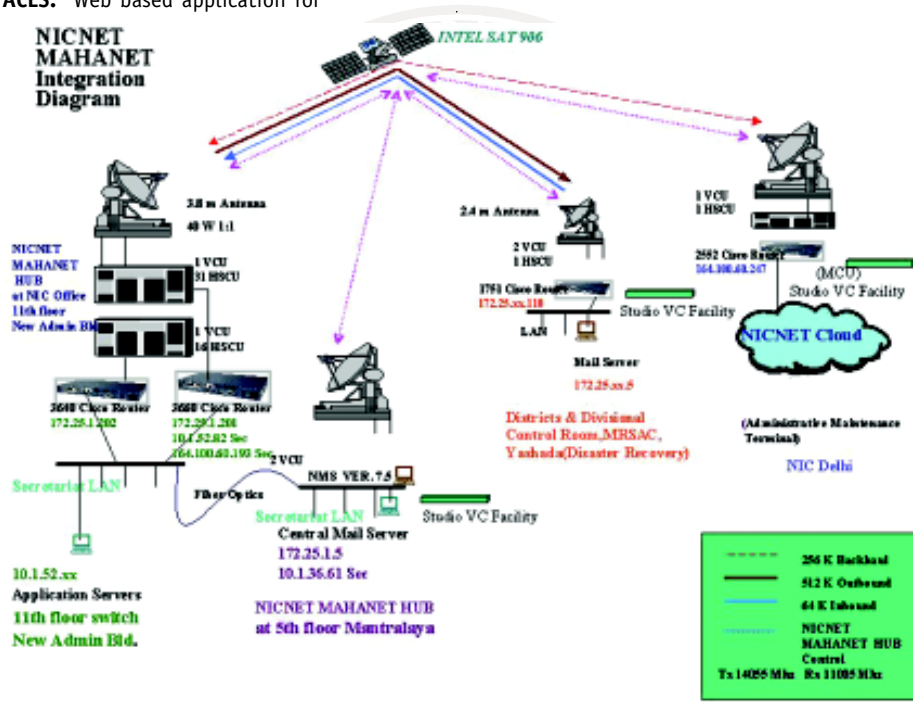
Web based registration is being implemented in the employment offices across the state.

- **Rural Development:**

Rural soft: Web based information system for monitoring schemes run by DRDA in Maharashtra.

E-Governance in Maharashtra

NIC Maharashtra Unit is actively involved in facilitating e-Governance which has been



chosen as a key area of implementation by the State Government. NIC has setup e-Governance cell in the state unit to monitor the activities being carried out at District level NIC centres and state level projects. Some of the important activities include..

Infrastructure Development

It is well known that without network and basic infrastructure it is difficult to develop IT enabled services. One of the major achievements in this regard is the Installation and Commissioning of Network Hub at NIC State Centre Mumbai as part of NICNET-MAHANET integration and Upgradation of MAHANET (Phase-I) and setting up of Studio Quality Video Conferencing facility at Chief Minister's office, Chief Secretary's office and Network Control Room. The same facility has been extended upto District level. It is also proposed to provide RF link between major offices at District level and necessary LAN components. The entire District NIC units are equipped with latest servers and clients as a part e-Governance promotion.

Web Enabled IT services

NIC is also involved in providing Web Services so as to enable statewide usage of NICNET. Following are the projects being carried out in the State.

- A one stop mega portal for all projects has been developed for the officials to get information about the state centre activities (**http://maharashtra.nic.in**).
- MAHASIM of NIC for consolidation all information from NIC District Centre. Templates have been created to enter data dynamically.
- Online connectivity of District Treasuries with Directorate of Treasury, Mumbai.
- Web based Allotment and Lifting Information System for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department Govt. of Maharashtra.

URL : http://maharashtra.gov.in/mahafood

- Development of software and portal for Directorate of Cotton Development Mumbai under DACNET project.

(URL:http://dacnet.nic.in/cotton)

- Monitoring System for Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana
- Porting existing websites on **http://district.nic.in** for all districts to come under the district portal of India.

eSecreteriat

Following projects have been initiated as a part of Secretariat computerization in the State

- Installation and Commissioning of Network Hub at NIC State Centre, Mumbai as part of NICNET-MAHANET integration and Upgradation of MAHANET (Phase-I) and setting up of Studio Quality Video Conferencing facility at Chief Minister's chamber, Chief Secretary's office and Network Control Room.

- Incorporation of different types of periodic returns to MIS for Employment Guarantee Scheme of Govt. of Maharashtra
- Web based Government Flat Allotment System for allotment of Govt. Quarters to the employees through General Administration Department.
- eService-Book for All India Services Branch of General Administration Department.
- Web based Inquiry System for Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (MAT), Mumbai.
- Support for generation of monthly Paybills and other accounts related consolidations of all departments in Secretariat.
- Presentation of paper on "Impact of e-Governance in District Administration" at ICEG Conference.
- State wide support to NIC district centre's for the centrally sponsored projects like rural soft, BPL 2000 survey, habitation survey, PMSGY and other drinking water schemes.

EGovernance implementation through35 NIC District Centres

All the 35 NIC District centres in Maharashtra have been provided with Hardware resources with VSAT connectivity and these District Centres provide following services to the District Administration.

1. Citizens Facilitation Centre

NIC has played a vital role in this prestigious project of State Government. The project, also known as *SETU* (a bridge between common citizen and Administration) has been implemented upto Tehsil level in all 35 Districts of Maharashtra. 'Setu' centre of Nanded District has been awarded with *ISO9001: 2000* certificate, which may be the first of such kind in the country. NIC district centre acted as Management Representative for the *ISO9001: 2000* project of Collectorate.

2. File Management

a) File Monitoring System (FMS)

This software enables to keep track of all the files pending for various reasons at various levels right from clerk to Collector. Presently this software is working on LAN and all the clerks having computers on desk can operate very easily.

b) KIOSK

Kiosk (touch screen) is being installed in Collector Office to make the following information available to the citizens of Nanded.

- File Pendency and current status
- File status with computerized token number
- Status of MP/MLA works under Local Area Development

3. Land Records Computerization

The entire ROR (7/12 extracts) and Property Cards for the State has been computerized. The software and technical expertise was provided by NIC.

4. District Court Computerization:

All the District level courts have been computerized with help of NIC. For this NIC has provided District Court Information System from which status of all cases, daily registers can be taken out.

5. Collectorate 2000

Another landmark in the computerization of Collector Offices is successful implementation of Collectorate 2000 package consisting of following major applications:

SWS: Single Window System caters to eight-two types of services from a single counter in Collector Office

LAVS: Land Acquisition System is a powerful tool to monitor, scrutiny, inquiry, notification, approval, publication, valuation and award distribution of LA cases.

SGY: Sanjay Gandhi Yojana to maintain database of beneficiaries under various schemes.

CSS: Civil Supply System to maintain data of commodities and stores.

TIS: Tapal Information System for inward/ outward department.

EGS: Employment Guarantee Scheme Software to generate labor attendance, weekly/monthly progress reports.

EIS: Establishment Information System to

maintain database of employees and service records

CEMS: Collectorate Expenditure Monitoring

System generate periodic expenditure incurred by Collectorate.

SSMS: Small Savings Monitoring System to maintain agent database calculation of incentives.

7. Zilla Parishad Computerization

The rural department working at District level has an importance not less than Collector Office. For this sector NIC has developed Accounting System, Tapal System, Pensioners payroll and other utility software's. At some places information and facilitation centre has been started.

8. Computerization in Municipal Administration

Some of the Municipal Corporation / Councils have implemented single window system software and other Software like Accounting, Water taxes, House taxes etc developed by NIC for Municipal Administration.

Information and Facilitation Counter at Nanded

AGMARKNET Project being implemented in the State

| Central Government Projects in Mumbai and Rest of Maharashtra

Various project teams and cells have been established for providing computerization support for implementation of software packages developed by NIC HQ such as Passport , Registrar of Companies, Central Excise, Customs and Excise, Textile Committee and Commissionerate, Postal Life Insurance, Fisheries Survey of India etc.
As part of Agriculture Informatics 66 APMC's have been provided with computers and linked to the website http://agmarknet.nic.in The Directorate of Cotton Development and Directorate of Marketing and Inspection are provided computerization support as part of DACNET project of NIC. The central AGMARKNET lab at Nagpur is also supported by NIC.

| Significant Achievements

- Upgradation of Mahanet and its integration with NICNET for enhancement of data communication between District Collectorate and Mantralaya.
- Establishment of NICNET-MAHANET hub centre at NIC State Centre Mumbai
- Citizen Facilitation Centre 'SETU' at Nanded has been awarded for ISO9001:2000 certificate
- Establishment of Studio quality video conferencing in all district and secretariat through NICNET.
- Commissioning of single window web application for various projects of state centre and districts.

| New Projects in Pipeline

- Establishment of OFC based WAN between Districts and Mantralaya.
- RF connectivity between District Collectorates and allied offices in all Districts of State
- Setting up District Collectorate LAN and Zilla Parishad LAN in the State.

For more details mail to siomsu@hub.nic.in

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Uttaranchal: The CEO used the NIC **Video Conferencing** facilities innovatively for monitoring the whole electioneering process. On the polling day, CEO interacted with the DEOs/ROs and media to get first hand information about the polling. The Doordarshan news teams used the VC facilities to upload video clippings to Newsrooms. Some reporters of TV channels reported their stories directly from remote locations over the NIC VC for live coverage to their satellite camera teams stationed at important districts.

Uttar Pradesh: All sixty-one District Centres of NIC UP were involved in the election exercise of computerizing polling person deployment, vehicle movement (route chart), counting personnel deployment and tabulation-compilation of results. The DD news clippings were uploaded using VC. Besides, hosting of the CEO website**, the maiden district website of District Election Officer, Ghaziabad was also hosted at http://gzbelection.up.nic.in**

West Bengal: The ROs of 42 parliamentary constituencies used the **standard application software** developed by NIC for the deployment of polling personnel to the polling booths by adopting randomization technique, exporting and importing 50% polling personnel to other districts in the presence of ECI appointed Observers. The NIC District Centre were also entrusted with the responsibility of data management and onward transmission to ECI and NIC web servers.

Arunachal Pradesh: NIC was actively involved in the poll process right from the start and provided support to the Administration in preparation of electoral rolls using TERM software, preparation of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) using PICTools software, printing of electoral rolls and EPICs, polling party formation, deployment, duty cards, issuance of appointment letters, Email and Internet connectivity to ROs/ counting halls and transmission of results data.

Suchitra Pyarelal & Rachna Srivastava, NIC HQ

NIC's Strategic Initiatives in E-Governance Applications Development

Many countries, India included, have recognized the fact that E-Governance can be used as an instrument of change that enables the citizen to do business with the government in a transparent and satisfying manner. From the inception, NIC has been in the forefront to help automate Government businesses. NIC continues with this commitment to reach new vistas of IT-enabled government services. In 2004, NIC has launched a number of initiatives that aim to ensure the following:

- Implementation of identified National E-governance projects
- Incorporation of state-of-the art applications development technologies into its developmental activities.
- Creation of a collaborative development environment over NICNET.
- Evolving a strategy for making a unified SRS for the National E-Governance Projects.
- Interoperability and standardization of E-governance applications development.

The following are the highlights of activities undertaken by NIC in 2004 towards achieving the above objectives.

National Level E-Governance Projects

NIC identified certain key domains and declared them as National Level Projects for time-bound execution, using the state-of-the-art technologies and applications development tools. The selected domains were Treasury, Land Records, Property Registration, Courts, Hospital Services and Employment Exchange.The overall objective of this national effort of NIC involving the state units concerned is to produce unified products in each of the above six areas of E-Governance. Six Project teams working under designated National Project Leaders/ Coordinators and a nearly 50-member Core Competency team, appropriately trained and briefed have been charged with the responsibility to successfully complete these projects.

Technology Exposure Workshops

It is essential to accelerate the process of absorption of new, state-of–the-art Applications Technologies into NIC's developmental initiatives. With this goal in focus and to initiate a fast-track scheme to build in-house capacity for the purpose of using modern Applications Development Technologies in its technological endeavors, NIC organized a series of technology exposure workshops.

Project Management Techniques Workshop

Competency in project management techniques is an essential attribute for successful implementation of projects. In order to develop this core competency among the project leaders, a workshop was held at Bangalore. The faculty resources were drawn from IIM (B) ,WIPRO and INTEL.

Base Documents and Workshops for unified SRS

The E-Governance projects follow processes and procedures that are not always uniform at the state level. In order to assess the degree of variance, each National Project Leader/Coordinator along with the team prepared a Base Document in respect of the project undertaken by them. This base document, prepared from information from all concerned State Governments, provides full details of the procedures and practices currently employed. As part of the above exercise, National level workshops were held at the respective lead State units of NIC, focusing on each of the six areas. The main objective of the workshops was to evolve a strategy for the unified SRS (System Requirements Specification).

Collaborative Development Environment

It is considered essential to have a mechanism to monitor and manage the various projects underway in different units as well as to share the common resources. In order to address this issue, an on-line integrated collaborative environment is being set up at the NIC headquarters in New Delhi. This NIC Integrated Collaborative Development Environment (NICODE) will provide the distributed groups of developers, working with disparate development tools, with one collaborative development environment that supports all phases of the application lifecycle, from requirements, through development and testing, to support.

Linkage with Industry

NIC interacts closely with the technology solution providers in the industry with a view to have the applications developed around open standards so that they become platform independent and interoperable.

Towards Evolving Interoperability Standards

Having developed a large number of e-governance applications and built-up a huge inventory of ICT solutions, NIC recognizes the vital importance of interoperability across these applications that reduces administrative and software costs to the government. NIC has initiated a detailed exercise for achieving inter-operability amongst those applications that are internally developed. Efforts are on to evolve an inter-operable framework for e-governance which is an agreed set of technical policies and standards for achieving interoperability and coherence of ICT systems across all E-Governance applications developed by various NIC development teams geographically distributed across the country.

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

NK Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

Bhawishyanidhi – GPF Automation

Directorate of Provident fund came into existence in Bihar from 1st April, 1986. Prior to this, all GPF accounts were maintained by A.G, Bihar. It was decided during creation of Provident Fund Directorate of Bihar that A.G. will transfer all the employees Balance Transfer (B.T.) up to the Financial year 1981-1982 over to newly created directorate.

NIC Takes the challenge

It was decided that computerization of Provident Fund office would be carried out by NIC which had to practically start from the scratch as none of the information was completely available with the P.F. Office. Government was facing a lot of pending cases regarding P.F. settlement.

The major activities of General Provident Fund can be grouped under the following heads –

- **Creation of Master**
- **Subscription to GPF**
- **Advances from GPF**
- **Withdrawals from GPF**
- **GPF A/C Maintenance**
- **Final Settlement**

Introduction and Scope of BHAWISHYANIDHI software

The scope of Vawishyanidhi is to streamline the State General Provident Fund in particular and in general for managing their day-to-day activities in an automated method. This system in addition to the implementation at Directorate can be implemented in district offices. The extent of replacing the manual system with the new automated system will be a step forward, providing better and error free service.

The services to be covered by automating the entire process of GPF office activities will benefit in managing the key activities of accounts and administration. In addition the developed system will act as a single window platform for the Management in controlling and monitoring various resources of the department.

Objectives of BHAWISHYANIDHI

- To Make Accounting Process Faster
- Proper Book-Keeping of the Record
- Proper monitoring of Accounts Position
- Complete tracking of the file Movement
- Proper monitoring of the Advances

Salient Features

The automated software will cover the entire activities of GPF for

- Faster Accounting/ Proper Book-Keeping/ Reducing staff workload
- Various MIS reports/ Tracing of File-Movement within the office
- Monitoring of Court Cases
- Capturing of Account Allotment Number and Nominee details
- Maintenance of yearly Ledger details like Subscriptions, Refunds and Advance / Withdrawal / Arrear details of all the subscribers
- Capturing the subscription change requests of various subscribers
- GPF Schedule details by manual entry or by importing data from treasury
- Capturing and settling of missing Credits / Debits of a subscriber
- Yearly Interest Calculation of various subscribers.
- Generation of Check List/ Generation of Collateral Evidence/ Generation of GPF Slip
- Maintain Ledger Register/ Maintain Interest Liability Register
- Handling of Final Payment, Residual Payment and Corrected Final Payment to the subscriber / nominee
- Handling / Maintain AG/District Balance Transfer status
- Handling / Maintaining the file movement register

The activities of office will be better managed by the software to monitor the day-to-day activity. In addition, the automated software will help in removing the hurdles of the department in timely calculation of Debit and/or Credit. The software provides timely submission of various reports to different authorities for effective monitoring.

Future Application

The Most important component of this project is making it fully web-enabled. An exercise of creating a web-site has already been initiated. It is planned to create an interface that will help the subscribers to check their accounts position. They can apply on-line for enrolment as subscriber. The web-site will also contain a public grievance forum through which Subscribers can submit their problems to the higher authorities.

Technical Details

Computing Model	**:**	**Client/Server**
Operating System	**:**	**Linux & Windows Server Family**
RDBMS	**:**	**Oracle 9i**
Front-End	**:**	**Visual Basic**

Finale & Security Measures

Specific techniques of risk analysis, hazard analysis, fault tolerance, and safety trade-offs within the software engineering paradigm have been taken into consideration at the time of software development. The software is totally password protected and auto-log files are created in background. For any kind of hazard or fault, the auto-backup provision is available within this software.

Training

To successfully implement **Bhawishyanidhi**, number of exhaustive training programmes were conducted for the GPF officers of state govt. for various districts. Altogether 500 participants attended the training programme from districts and Directorate. These participants came in batches comprising of 25 participants a batch.

Director, GPF has appreciated the efforts of NIC team comprising Shri AK Mohanty and Dr. Kanhaiya Pandey for designing, developing and implementing the Bhawishyanidhi software in the state within the specified time frame.

For further information, mail to
sio@bih.nic.in

R. K. Gupta & Mukesh Agarwal, NIC HQ

epost – Reaching far and wide

http://indiapost.nic.in

The Internet revolution has allowed rapid exchange of communication through email. However, the Internet has not yet reached most of the rural India and other remote areas. To bridge this digital divide and to bring the benefit of the revolutionary Internet technology to people living in these areas, Department of Posts (DOP) has introduced ***epost***.

The NIC Cell at DOP has designed and developed the web based software and the service was recently inaugurated at a national level by Sh. Vijay Bhushan , Secretary (Posts) in a special function. Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG(NIC) also graced the occasion. The entire infrastructure setup for the hosting of this application has been done at the Internet Data Centre at NIC HQ.

'epost' is a service under which printed or even handwritten messages of customers are scanned and transmitted as email through Internet. At the destination offices, these messages are printed, enveloped and delivered through postmen like other letters at the concerned postal addresses. For this purpose, *epost* centres have been set up in the Post Offices, covering all the revenue districts and major towns. These *epost* centres are equipped with Internet connection, computers, printers and other necessary equipment.

However, *epost* service is not limited to the *epost* centres. It can be availed of from any Post Office. Irrespective of whether a customer is in a metropolis or in a remote village, he can send and receive *epost* messages. The messages booked at Post Offices which are not designated *epost* centres, are sent to *epost* centres for scanning and dispatch. Similarly, messages received at *epost* centres for areas beyond their delivery jurisdiction are printed and sent to concerned Post Offices for delivery. Besides availing *epost* service through Post Offices, it can also be accessed from customer's home or office if he has a computer and Internet access. The customer can make payment through a prepaid card that is available from head post offices. The customer has to register as a user, and can access the service at the *epost* portal **http://indiapost.nic.in** . At present, only text messages can be sent in this mode. The *epost* messages can also be sent to email ID(s) anywhere in the world. Booking can be done from both a Post Office or from customer's computer at home or office.

Booking from a Post Office

- Customer to bring a hand written or printed message to any Post Office. It does not matter in which language it is written.
- The message may be in text format, or may contain pictures or both.
- Any number of pages can be booked. However, no page should be more than A4 in size (8.27" x 11.69").
- The name and address, with PIN code, of the addressee(s) and sender should be clearly and legibly written on top of the message. Messages can be sent to Postal addresses in India only.
- The message (only text for the time being) can also be handed over in a floppy, along with clearly written addresses and email Ids of the recipients, if any. Customer must ensure that the floppy is virus free. The size should be such as can be printed on a A4 size paper.
- The Post Office, if it is an *epost* Centre, would scan the message and issue a receipt for the tariff.
- In case the Post Office is not an *epost* Centre, it would retain the message. The payment would be in the form of postage stamps affixed on the top right of the message sheet. The Post Office will deface the postage stamps with the date stamp and issue a receipt for tariff to the customer. The receipt meant for registered articles may be used for this purpose, after cutting out the word 'registered' from the receipt. The Post office would put the message in a closed service envelope and send it to designated *epost* Centre for further transmission electronically.
- The tariff, at present, is Rs. 10 per A4 size page, per addressee. Payment can be made only in cash.

Booking from Customer's Home/Office

- Customer has to buy an *epost* prepaid cash card. These cards can be bought from select Post Offices and other outlets in denominations of Rs. 500 and 1000.
- Customer can access the *epost* portal **indiapost.nic.in** and register as a user. Once registered, messages can be easily sent by following the online instructions.
- *epost* messages can be sent to any postal addressee(s) in India and email ID(s), anywhere in the World.
- Payment can be made online using the prepaid cash card only.

Transmission & Delivery

- The *epost* Centre would scan the message and send it as an email through the Internet to the nearest *epost* Centre of the addressee.
- The destination *epost* Centre would print the message, put it in an envelope and would send it out for delivery through the postmen. The printing would be in Black & White only.
- If the addressee is not within the delivery jurisdiction of the *epost* Centre, it would send the envelope to the Post Office in whose jurisdiction the addressee resides, for delivery to the addressee.

In case the addressee is not found or the *epost* is refused, it shall be returned to the sender like an ordinary letter. *epost* messages are treated on par with the unregistered letters under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, and no compensation for time taken, wrong delivery or loss of article etc is admissible.

Besides making the benefits of Internet available even to Indians living in remote areas, *epost* enables businessmen and professionals to advertise their products and services to select customers. They can send their publicity material even from their or home or office from their computers, without having to spend for printing of advertisements and then on posting or hand delivering them.

For further details, log on to
http:// indiapost.nic.in

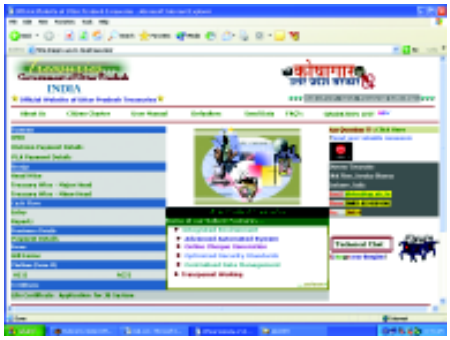
Anshu Rohatgi, UP Correspondent

ICT at Finance Sector in Uttar Pradesh

Department of Finance, UP and NIC have been working together for more than a decade. Modernization of the Revenue Sector being a top priority of the State Government, NIC UP State Unit took up the challenge of computerizing all the major activities of the Finance Department viz Budget Preparation, Allotment & Control, Treasury Directorate & District Treasuries, Pension, Pay, GPF, GIS etc. The major emphasis of the various project undertaken was to bring transparency in Government transactions, accurate and speedy accounting, proper budgeting, timely reporting and facilitating the general public with an efficient use of the latest ICT tools.

ITSANIC

(*Integrated Treasury System Application of NIC*) Treasury Computerization was initiated way back in 1994-95 & since then has achieved many milestones. It is successfully implemented in all the districts of the state and provides free-of-cost anytime, anywhere data services through a web-site **http://upgov.up.nic.in/uptreasuries**.



The website, which has the distinction of being the first official treasury website of the country is updated directly from the district treasuries using NIC's network 'NICNET' It is used potentially by the Government officials, planners, economists & researchers & provides relief to our elder citizens -pensioners of the state. ITSANIC, is a user-friendly software with a modular approach. It has been developed with the objective to help the management with timely data for monitoring of expenditures on schemes and also to secure itemized control on expenditure. Some of the salient features of the software include - Remittance Accounting (CCL/DCL)
Personal Ledger Accounting
Pension Disbursement & Accounting
Online Cheque Generation, etc

Budget Preparation

Uttar Pradesh is one of the first states in the country to prepare a fully computerized state budget. NIC has put tremendous efforts in making the massive job of budget preparation look simple. The software has proved to be indispensable for formulating the figures of the Annual Budget, the corresponding Supplementary Budget or Vote-on-Accounts both in English and in Hindi. The software is also used for pre-budget and post budget analysis, year-wise comparative analysis, generation & printing of 6 volumes of 17 books of budget (around 4500 pages). The budget as and when kept on floor of the house is immediately made available through the directorate of budget website **(http://upgov.up.nic.in/upbudget)** for everyone to have a glimpse of it. The website gives budget estimates with a click of a mouse and also has a query option.

Pay & GPF

The success of Pay & GPF software developed by NIC State Unit is awe-inspiring. Started in 1998-99, more than 30,000 offices of the state are currently using a uniform software for their Pay and GPF calculations. In addition to generating, the Paybills, Schedules, Acquittence Rolls & Pay Slips the Payroll Processing software maintains the employee data, generates Pay Arrear Bills, Monthly Retirement List, Deduction Schedules, Bonus Calculations & direct credit to bank facility.

Pension

The Integrated Pension Management System was implemented in the year 1999 at the Pension Directorate & AD Office's. It not only takes care of Pre Pension Processing but also generates all Master Indexes & all the Authorities (GPO, PPO, CPO) with photographs and signatures. The software facilitates Auto Calculation & Revision of Pension & Gratuity, Arrear Calculation, Pensioner Detail Maintenance & Pension Adalat Monitoring

Group Insurance

Group Insurance Management system of NIC (GIMSNIC) software has been designed for providing the entry of GIS claims, calculation sheet and DDO wise claim register through computer at the treasury level and generating information for the Director, U.P. State Employees Group Insurance Directorate.

Training

More than 5000 finance officers from UP and other states have already been trained on basic and advanced courses running through out the year. A state-of-art computer lab has been established at the Institute of Financial Management & Research by the State Government for this purpose.

Future Plans

Integrated Pay & Accounts Office

The software envisages a centralized solution for payroll preparation of all 180-200 odd departments in the district. The software will also maintain the personal details of the employees centrally. Through this application, the state government will own a very comprehensive personnel database at one place for better analysis, management and policy formulation of human resource

Fibre Connectivity -

In a major initiative all District Treasury Offices will be connected to NIC District Centres through Fiber. This will provide a high bandwidth for data transmission between the two offices. Network in couple of districts has already been established.

Interactive Voice Response System

IVRS based Pension Query System has been designed for the benefit of Senior Citizens of the State. This will be implemented in all District Treasuries in next couple of months.

Fully Automated State Finance Department

A comprehensive project plan has been submitted for establishing an Intranet of all the sections, officials & establishments of the finance department within the secretariat. The computerization will cover the core activities of the department, monitor the sanctions & approvals, facilitate sharing of resources and help in analysis and planning.

For further details mail to
sio@up.nic.in

Md.Sibli Sirajee, NIC HQ

Grey Literature on the Web

Grey literature refers to information products, which are created and distributed in order to disseminate knowledge (ideas, facts, opinions) rather than to sell for a profit. It is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, which is not controlled by commercial publishers. These may include conference proceedings, newsletters, technical notes, theses/dissertations, translations, trade literature and house journals, government publications, working papers, committee reports, and more. An article appearing on the Internet in *Information World Review in 1996,* calls grey literature "the unsung hero, the foot soldier, the foundation of the building".

It possesses the following characteristics:

a. Can provide information that is not available;
b. Can offer the results of conferences and congresses faster that occurs with conventional literature;
c. Permits corroboration of important information located in other sources;
d. Is concise and aimed directly at the content of the issue,
e. Is complete- items included in grey literature are often more detailed than those published later in official journals, and;
f. Ease of exchange through the Internet.

Electronic grey literature:

The Internet and changes in publishing have focused attention on the expansion and diversification of grey literature. A large number of Web sites give access to progress reports on the new technologies that support medical, biological, archaeological, astrophysical, meteorological, and geological developments bringing together the new instrumentation used in laboratories, hospitals, clinical settings for medical, environmental, and technical research and commercial applications. Today physicians, health practitioners and scientists are able to take and retain radiological films and reproduce them at other location for others to view at the fast and high resolution. In the filed of human and animal genetics lot of research work has been done, scientists are now able to predict one's likelihood of contracting a specific illness or disease. These databases cover subjects like molecular biology, virology and anatomy and offer information on cloning, reproductive health and interpretations of applied ethics.

Use of embedded metadata in source documents, and 'electronic journal' type websites developed by universities, libraries and other organisations are increasing. Digitisation and networking provide authors and end-users with a mechanism for distributing and acquiring information without need for the professional institutions in the information chain.

Access to grey literature:

Searching for grey literature is difficult for a number of reasons. The core reasons for difficulties in identifying and acquiring this kind of literature are due to its "poor bibliographic information and control, non-professional layout and format, and low print runs" (Augur 1989,3). Publishing literature on the Web has become very easy because one needs not to comply with rigid editorial standards for publishing self-material. Portable Document Files (PDF) are becoming very popular tools for publishing in-house documents. This helps to reduce publishing and printing costs. Search engines such as Google are capable of searching for PDF files, and for information within PDF files - greatly improving the ability to search for relevant papers and reports. An Italian survey of grey literature put on and cited on the web servers of research institutes has shown that 61% of the institutes have published grey literature. Grey literature is being produced at an exponential rate. Its rate of growth is three to four times that of conventional literature. In 1992 the BLDSC (British Library Document Supply Centre, UK) held about 3 million grey literature, ten years later the collection grown to 17 million. The Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI), US has a collection of over 1.5 million Energy R&D reports and approximately 5 million bibliographic citations. The European Association for Grey Literature Exploitation/ System of Information for Grey Literature in Europe (EAGLE/SIGLE) is another significant co-operative network for identification, location and supply of Grey Literature. It produces and provides access to the bibliographic database SIGLE.

Conclusion

The Grey Literature has a great significance in supporting ongoing initiatives aimed at improving living standards in developing nations. It provides citizens with the information they require to make decisions about their lives and the societies they live. It covers nearly every aspect of Science & Technology and provides readers with research summaries, facts, statistics and other data and the information contained in it is usually valuable and unique. The greatest challenges involved with these items are the process of identification, since there is limited indexing, and acquisition; availability is usually marred with uncertainty. Absence of editorial control, raising questions about authenticity and reliability are the other constraints. Despite these considerations, gray literature is continually referenced in scholarly articles and therefore remains an issue that librarians must contend with. There is a need for specialised bibliographic instruments to facilitate the identification and retrieval of grey literature.

Some Useful References on this subject are available at

* http://www.greynet.org/pages/3/index.htm
* http://personal.ecu.edu/cooninb/greyliterature.htm
* http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/ehta/chapter10.html

For further information, mail to **sibli@hub.nic.in**

CYBER GOVERNANCE

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

Public Works Department, Mizoram
http://mizopwd.nic.in

The website Of Public Works Department, Mizoram was inaugurated by Er. Ramhluna Khiangte, Secretary & Engineer in Chief, Mizoram at a simple function attended by officers and Media persons on 20th May. Speaking on the occasion, Sh Khiangte said

that the website is a small but a significant step taken up by PWD, Mizoram along with NIC towards the e-governance . This website contains a plethora of information relevant to other government departments, contractors as well as common citizens.

Lalhmachhuani, Mizoram Correspondent

Public Health Engineering Office, Orissa
http://publichealthorissa.nic.in

Public Health Engineering Office, Orissa went online with launching of its official website on NIC's web server. The website provides information about plans and programmes of the Govt. in development of urban water supply and sewerage sector in the state including major ongoing projects, water

supply status of ULBs, water quality standards and guidelines for the consumers / general public. The Heat Wave information system incorporated in the web site provides information on daily water supply status & weekly report on the tube well status, which is being updated daily from divisions.

The citizens charter of the web site provides information on how to apply for water supply & sewerage connection, billing services, prevailing water tariff, complaint reddressal and consumer obligation, safety tips regarding safe drinking water for the consumer / general public. Public can download the application forms for new water supply connection as well as tender information. The FAQ section answers a number of general questions on water supply & treatment. Inaugurating the Website Er. S. K. Mohanty, Chief Engineer, PH (Urban) informed that online application for a new water supply connection, checking of water bills on line, Complaint registration online etc. would not be a distant dream. Er. S. K. Das, Asst. to Chief Engineer, the pioneer behind this success, highlighted that this milestone has been achieved with active cooperation from NIC State Secretariat Centre, Orissa .

A.K.Hota, Orissa Correspondent

Directorate of Town and Country Planning, MP
http://www.mptownplan.nic.in

The website of Directorate of Town and County Planning, Bhopal, with all its contents in hindi was recently launched on the Net. The activities of Town & Country Planning includes planning of State & Town development, supervision of integrated development plan for small & medium sized towns, infrastructure development plan for towns etc., besides, extending consultancy on planning related issues to various departments of M.P. The web-site provides important information related to Departmental setup, activities, contact details upto district level officers, Planning regions, Citizen Charter etc.

Santosh Shukla, MP Correspondent

Accountant General Office , J&K
http://agjk.nic.in

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Sh S K Sinha, PVSM, the Hon'ble Governor of Jammu & Kashmir inaugurated the official website of the office of Accountant General, Jammu & Kashmir recently at Jammu. Sh. L V Sudhir Kumar, Accountant General, J&K, Sh. Sunil Kumar,

E Governor, J&K launching the website of AG Office, J&

SIO NIC-J&K and other senior officers of AG Office were present on this occasion. This website has been divided into three parts viz. Government to Citizens (G2C) Interface, which includes functioning of AG office, its Organizational Structure, Annual Reports published by CAG office for J&K State etc, Government to Government (G2G) Interface, which includes 7 tier Accounts Heads Classification, Treasury Codes, DDO Codes and Tips for Controlling Officers/ Treasury Officers/Drawing & Disbursing Officers etc, the most important interface of this website is Government to Employees (G2E) interface through which retiring/ retired/families of deceased employees will be able to get information about their cases by giving Index Numbers or PPO Numbers. While addressing the gathering, the Governor said that this website will be very useful for pensioners in this age of information explosion. He appreciated the efforts done by AG office and NIC-J&K State Centre for hosting this website.

Jit Raj, J&K Correspondent

ADHISOOCHNA, Uttaranchal
http://gov.ua.nic.in/adhisoochna

ADHISOOCHNA (A Database HItech Search Of Orders through CHannalised NAvigator) is a website providing all the orders issued by the State Government of Uttaranchal in the public domain. With the help of this website, developed by NIC Uttaranchal at the behest

of the Chief Secretary's Office, electronically scanned Government Orders are searchable datewise, departmentwise and categorywise. The website is available through the homepage of NIC Uttaranchal (**http://ua.nic.in**) under 'Important information' category. In addition to this the site also provides department and category wise summary of all the Government Orders. Presently Government Orders of thirty-five departments are available on this site.

A.K.Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

Deptt of Public Enterprises, Assam
http://dpeassam.nic.in

The website of the Department of Public Enterprises, Government of Assam was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary of Assam at a recent function held at Dispur. The

website, developed by Department of Public Enterprises, and designed and hosted by NIC, Assam State Centre, contains information on all state level public enterprises, statistical data and other related information of various public sector bodies.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam

District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
http://hpkangra.nic.in

The website of Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh has been developed jointly by the District Administration, Kangra and NIC District Centre, Kangra at Dharamshala. The district is also on the world map because of His Holiness Dalai Lama. In view of this, the importance of this website increases because of the interest of the foreign tourists.The website provides information about the History, Culture, Tourism, Facts, Administration, e-governance, War Hero's decorated with PVC, MVC Govt. Tenders, Hotel Directory, etc. The Tourism section is very elaborate and covers information like Tourist Maps, Important Distances, Adventure Tourism, Fairs & Festivals, Accommodation availability, rivers etc. The access section gives details of major road links to Dharamshala from Chandigarh, Shimla, Delhi and Railway Time table of Pathaknot – Kangra-Joginder Nagar Section. The photo gallery includes the various photographs of temples, scenic views, Tea Garden, Lakes and Folk Dances. The prospective tourists can gather all information about various Kangra Temples in the District so as to plan their pilgrimage accordingly. An important feature of the website is that it provides the common public with the option of interacting with the Administration through it. Several citizen services like, getting a ration card, driving license, Bonafide Himachal certificate have also been included along with the downloadable forms in PDF format for use by the public without the need to visit the concerned offices. Dr. Srikant Baldi, Deputy Commissioner, Kangra recently launched the website officially.

Ajay Singh Chahal, HP Correspondent

UP Police Department
http://uppolice.up.nic.in

The Official website of UP Police department has been developed by NIC, UP State Unit, Lucknow as a step towards e-Policing in the state. The Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh inaugurated the website on 22nd June 2004. The site has messages from the Hon'ble Governor, Chief Minister, Chief

Secretary & Principal Secretary Home, apart from the DGP himself. The website has valuable information both for the administration and the common people. The DGP lauded the efforts of NIC and emphasized that computerization of Police Department is one of the priority areas in his agenda. The following information has been provided on this website

- Contact numbers of various Units & Police Officers of UP Police
- Information about unclaimed dead bodies & missing persons
- Gradation list & posting details of IPS & PPS officers
- Orders issued by the Director General of Police & Government
- Important events occurred in past 24 hours
- Tender Notification
- Welfare schemes for police personnel
- Police Magazine
- Provision for registering complaints with senior police officers
- Brief information about crime & criminals
- Crime Trends
- Details of Most wanted criminals
- Help line for common citizen & Foreign visitors
- Sports events

Anshu Rohatgi , UP Correspondent

Tirap District, Arunachal Pradesh
http://tirap.nic.in

The website of the Tirap District in Arunachal Pradesh was inaugurated recently by Sh. T. L. Rajkumar, Hon'ble Minister (Law & Justice) in presence of Shri Thajam Aboh, Hon'ble Minister (Horticulture), Shri J. P. Choudhury, Deputy Commissioner and other district officials at the Deputy Commissioner's Office. The website has been designed and developed by the NIC District Unit. On the occasion Sh.

S. Rajesh Singh of NIC Tirapwhile demonstrated the website and explained the intricacies and manifold advantages to the dignitaries. Both the ministers appreciated the efforts of NIC in launching the website and hoped that the website would be of immense help to the users in the district.

Tasso Habung, Arunachal Pradesh 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.....

New Budget Head Schema in Rajasthan Treasuries Computerization

A new 15-digit budget head schema has been successfully implemented in all the treasuries and sub-treasuries of the Rajasthan in place of earlier 18-digit schema. This change has been initiated by NIC as desired by Finance Department, Rajasthan for the sake of uniformity across the country. A 2 day state level exhaustive workshop was also conducted to make the treasury personnel acquainted with the new schema.

Deepak Bhargava, Rajasthan Correspondent

Training Programme in Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal

NIC Lower Dibang Valley District, Roing, in Arunachal pradesh recently conducted a 15 day "Orientation Training Programme on Computers" for the Officers of District Administration and its allied departments. Senior officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner, Circle Officers, Assistant Controller(Legal Metrology), Asstt. Registrar Cooperative Society and Asstt. Mineral Development Officer participated in the training programme. The training was coordinated by Sh. Gyati Doley, DIO.

Tasso Habung, Arunachal Pradesh

Workshop-cum-Training on STAMINA Nagaland Version

At the apex level of National Informatics Centre, a decision on the Horizontal transfer of Application among the various states has already been taken. This will not only eliminate the marathon task of redundancy of job but will help in the evolvement of a unified standard national software product.

In order to realize the above concept , NIC Bihar took a lead and initiated the development of a version of STAMINA- (Sales Tax Administration Management Information Network Aided), a software product designed, developed and implemented successfully in the state of Bihar , for the Government of Nagaland. NIC Bihar also organized a four day workshop cum training for the Officers from NIC Nagaland and Nagaland State Government. Sh. Sudhir Kumar, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary, Commercial Taxes Department, Govt. of Bihar attended the valedictory session. He stress upon the role that a Head of the Department has to play in successful implementation of the STAMINA and what prerequisites are bare essential while implementing STAMINA in other regions.

N.K Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

Ship Ticket Availability Display System for Lakshadweep

The Ship Ticket Availability Display system developed by NIC Lakshadweep Unit for the Lakshadweep administration office, Kochi displays the availability of ship tickets for all the five passenger ships from Kochi and Kozhikode to the Lakshadweep group of islands. The scheduled ship programes, changes in schedules and other important notices are fetched from the ship ticketing database and displayed to the public. This provides transparency in the ship ticketing system and benefits a large number of passengers traveling to the islands. Before the introduction of this system the only way to know the ticket availability was to enquire in the ticket counter or to check the availability in the Internet. The new system benefits the passengers who don't have access to the Internet and also benefits the passengers standing in the queue. The system shall be subsequently introduced in all the Port offices in Lakshadweep islands.

Ajith Brahmanandan, Lakshdweep Correspondent

e-Patrak - Reporting System in Gujarat

NIC Gujarat has developed a generic web based software to create and operate any generalized reporting statements in Government. This facilitates dynamic generation of different types of reports at different levels.

The software has been successfully used for generating web enabled reports in the Rural Development and Health departments of Government of Gujarat. The Rural Development department has operationalised around 25 statements from Taluka to District to State Head Quarters to monitor the DRDA schemes. In the health department the software is used for various programmes like Leprosy, T.B, and Blindness control and administrative accounting statements.

Normally in Government the information flows from Village -> Taluka -> District -> State. And one of the major jobs in Government offices is sending reports to higher authorities and compilation of the reports' data at different levels for decision-making and future planning. It had been quite a redundant job making separate software system for these report generation and data collection for different offices and to apply modifications made from time to time to maintain the system. E-Patrak addresses all these issues and can be implemented for any department as the user department can create and modify statements and data collection screens without the help of software professional.

Manoj PA, Gujarat Correspondent

Workshop on Open GIS

GIS solutions have become an essential part of the IT infrastructure where a lot of information need to be delivered in graphical way related to a physical location on ground. Use of GIS enhances decision-making, improves analysis and thus provides better service internally and externally within organizations. A national level seminar on GIS was held at Chennai during which, Shri.V.S.Raghunathan, SIO Kerala delivered a lecture and presentation on Open **GIS and interoperability.** Ms.Mahalakshmi from NIC Chennai also delivered a lecture on

MapServer, an open source GIS, using scripts. The seminar was sponsored by University Grants Commission and conducted by Department of Geography, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Madras, Chennai.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

President of India uses NIC-VC

Hon'ble President of India Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam participated in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore through Videoconferencing from New Delhi on 21st April 2004. The event was witnessed by around 10,000 people present at BEL's Bangalore complex. NIC provided the Videoconferencing link between Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi and BEL, Bangalore using its Mobile VSAT over NICNET at a high speed of 768 Kbps and the same was commended by the Hon'ble President.

Sambeet Mishra, NIC-HQ

ISO and QMS Training at Haryana

ISO certification process has been initiated in NIC to establish QMS for ensuring consistent, reliable and quality ICT Services to the user as per the Quality Policy & Quality Objectives of NIC. Initial stage of this important activity was marked by a series of awareness training programmes to the selected employees of NIC in the States by the Central QMS Group of NIC. After receiving trainers' training on "Implementation of QMS" organised by NIC as per the requirements of ISO 9001:2000, NIC Haryana State Unit started imparting the training to its officers/ officials at District and State Centres for effective implementation of QMS and for collecting feedback for its continual improvement. The training was completed in three phases. The QMS implementation training programme in the state has been carried out effectively by QA Group headed by Sh. G.S. Bansal, SIO, Haryana.

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

Bihar Vidhan Sabha Computer Centre Inaugurated

A State-of-the-art Computer Centre, set up by NIC Bihar State Unit for Bihar Vidhan Sabha was recently inaugurated by Hon'ble Speaker of Vidhan Sabha, Sh. Sadanand Singh in the presence of media and many dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Singh announced that a website for Bihar Vidhan Sabha shall be launched shortly where all information on the important activities of the house including daily proceedings shall be available. The computer centre is equipped with a Server and 15 clients powered with high-speed

communication facilities. The centre will record day-to-day proceedings of the sessions and will also manage information about all schemes and govt. welfare programmes, financial funds, physical progress of schemes along with the bottlenecks so that the MLAs can take necessary steps for the speedy and efficient implementation of the programmes in their respective areas.

N.K Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

NIC MP creates IMPACT

World over, Thematic Maps are being increasingly used as a decision support tool. For efficient and automated generation of these Maps, without recourse to any special GIS techniques, NIC Madhya Pradesh has developed a general tool viz., Instant Map Preparation Analysis & Customization Tool (IMPACT), which is an easy to use Thematic Map Generation Tool. Any novice can use this tool for generation of Maps as it does not require any expertise. IMPACT has been conceptualized keeping in view the developers as well as the end users (planners, researchers, analyst, administrators etc.) who are interested in the preparation and use of thematic maps. Some of the features of IMPACT include easy-to-use interface for capturing all information related to thematic attributes, online preview of the thematic map generated while entering attributes, Storing of the map in BMP as well as JPEG file format, in-built range checks to improve data consistency etc. IMPACT works on Windows platform and requires inputs in the form of a Scanned Map, Parameter Values on which the Thematic Map is to be generated and thematic attributes. So far, over 200 maps are prepared using the tool and the maps pertaining to departments of Women & Child Development and Public Health Engineering are already hosted on the net.

Santosh Shukla, MP Correspondent

AGMARKNET Programme in Punjab

Sh. Sant Ram Singla, Hon'ble Chairman, Punjab Mandi Board inaugurated a two day AGMARKNET awareness programme in Chandigarh in association with Directorate of Marketing and Inspection. Sh. P.K. Agarwal, IAS Agriculture Marketing Adviser & Joint

Secretary to Govt. of India, Sh. A. Venu Prasad, IAS, Secretary, Punjab Mandi Board, leading farmers of Punjab and various other officers from Punjab Mandi Board and APMCs attended the session. Sh. Ajay Malhotra from NIC Punjab State Unit gave a presentation about NIC & AGMARK-NET in the inaugural ceremony.

Sarbjeet Singh, Punjab Correspondent

One day colloquium on DISNIC-PLAN

In the era of e-Governance at grassroots, the relevance of the DISNIC Programme has been felt necessary and hence the Planning Commission has desired to re-establish the

DISNIC-PLAN project, with institutional linkages of grassroot level organizations, to provide continuous support to development agencies in districts, during 2004-07. The Planning Commission has agreed to revisit DISNIC-PLAN on pilot basis and sanctioned Rs. 15 crores for its implementation in one district (covering all the blocks), one block (covering all the villages) per State. Institutional Linkages with the Department of Geography will also be provided for ushering in spatial planning.

The DISNIC-PLAN new initiative will support building up databases & decision support systems, and communication systems to facilitate: sustainability of resources, poverty alleviation, empowerment of women, full employment, production systems planning, infrastructure planning and habitat planning. A One-day Colloquium in this regard was organized on 5th May, 2004 at NIC HQ which was addressed by Sh M. Moni, DDG (NIC) .The

stakeholders and NIC Officers who have vast experience in this area participated and deliberated issues related to strengthening informatics components: viz. information system - spatial and non-spatial, networking, institutional linkages, to achieve "viable societies in rural space".

Sameena Mukhija, NIC HQ

First Computerized Depot of PRTC Inaugurated in Punjab

Member of Parliament and Maharani of Patiala Smt Praneet Kaur inaugurated the first Computerized Depot of Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) at Patiala, Punjab. The software for the Depot, named as Depot Sahayak System has been developed by NIC, Punjab. At present the software supports commercial activities of the depot like generation of waybills, ticket stock, different rotations, advance booking waybills, duty roaster etc. It also helps the corporation in generating the various reports on Route Receipt, Mileage of Buses, total cash collection, passenger taxes for Punjab and other states, over time calculation for crew etc. The chairman of the Corporation Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta and the Managing Director, PRTC Sh. Iqbal Singh Sidhu, IAS expressed their appreciation towards SIO and the NIC Punjab Team for the commendable job.

Smt Kaur also honoured the Project Team led by S. Sarbjeet Singh of NIC Punjab for the successful implementation of the project.

Sarbjeet Singh, Punjab Correspondent

VICHAR at Uttaranchal

A large area of Uttaranchal state comprises hilly terrain with poor road network connectivity. Travelling of district officials to state capital or senior officials from state headquarters costs valuable time and money. VICHAR (Video Interactive Highway for Administrative Reviews) is a platform to bring remotely located Government Officials, Public Representatives, Press and Citizens inside a Virtual Conference Room to share information and steer ideas to take speedy decisions to add more in the development of the state in a much more organized way. To have maximum utilization of Videoconferencing infrastructure available in the state, VICHAR envisages proposing all future review meetings with minimum physical movements of officials to share information on pre-decided guidelines. It will enable virtual project management by getting together geographically dispersed peer groups at short notices. After adoption of this platform, Government at state headquarters would be interacting with public representatives, press and government officials at district headquarters more frequently through Videoconferencing than earlier.
Recently at a special function, Chief Secretary Dr. R S Tolia, inugurated VICHAR and a booklet giving general details about videoconferencing and the scheduled videoconferences of Uttaranchal was distributed among the users of the state. Following this, a two days workshop of all the users was organized at VC Division, NIC New Delhi.
Dr. Tolia took the opportunity to congratulate the officers of NIC and Department of IT, Government of Uttaranchal for their tireless efforts and high level of commitment for running the Videoconferencing Network in the state.

A.K.Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

Secretary DIT visits Imphal

Sh. K.K Jaswal, Secy, DIT, Govt of India and Sh. P K Agrawala, Jt Secy , DIT, Govt of India visited Imphal on 5th May, 2004. They visited a number of CIC sites and had detailed interaction with the CIC operators and

custodians regarding CIC operation and its benefits to the public. Shri A.Luikham, Commissioner (S&T) , SIO Manipur and many officers accompanied the Secretary on the visits. Prios to visiting CICs , a meeting was held at Secretariat, Imphal , which was attended by Senior officers of the State Govt where different issues of ICT infrastructure, ongoing application projects in Manipur were discussed . During the meeting, the Secretary announced the approval for funding of Secretariat LAN, Imphal as well as for the complete operationalisation of VAHAN software in all RTOs of Manipur.

Kh. Rajen Singh, Manipur Correspondent

WebNotes – Online Greensheets

WebNotes, a newly introduced feature on IntraNIC is an online process of moving Green Sheet from one user to another as it would be in a manual system. Features of WebNotes include :-

- Note Creation
- Digitally signed and submitted over web with verification of signature at any time.

- Attachment of files can also be included at the time of creation and also at the time of providing remarks.
- On line Status of note, approve/remark,
- Search from a single point on his/her desktop.
- Generating an email alert is to the person to whom Web Note is sent to enable him/her to take note even if not logged in IntraNIC,
- The Workflow process of Notes movement has been automated using the workflow features of MS Exchange 2000 and Window Office XP development tool.

WebNotes is integrated with IntraNIC and can be accessed through the 'online applications' option in the top menu. Before using Webnotes it is a pre-requisite to download the digital certificate and install it on local system. This is used for digitally signing the data .

G.A.Shaik Mohmad & Kapil K. Sharma, NIC HQ

Palakkad Collectorate set to make e-history

The Collectorate of Palakkad is set to become the country's first totally computerized collectorate under the Modernising Government Programme (MGP) with the recent launch of the efforts. The project is being implemented by the NIC Kerala State Unit along with the District Centre. The District Collector, Sh. Sanjeev Kaushik launched the project named DC@Suite, envisaging an integrated set of

applications covering all areas of work in the Collectorate. Work-flow based file management, revenue recovery and public grievance redressal would be the key areas of the project. The Collectorate would have a full-fledged data centre with web servers, database servers, mail servers, firewall etc and a training centre with the state-of-art facilities.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

PriaSoft Implementation in Orissa

Orissa is the first state to initiate computerisation of Rural Local Bodies(RLB)-PRIs[Village Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayats] with the help of NIC-State Unit and share the data in public domain using internet facility. Web based PriaSoft application software has been implemented across the state and was recently launched in a public function attended by dignitaries and District, Panchayat and Block Level Officials.

D.C Misra, NIC HQ

PSMIS for A.G's Office, Hyderabad

NIC Andhra Pradesh State Unit has developed a Pension Settlement and Management Information System for AG's Office at Hyderabad using Client/Server Architecture. The package covers all the activities of Pension wing starting from the receipt of the pension case by the AG's office till its dispatch to the pensioner and concerned offices. All pension rules are codified and built in to the package. It automatically calculates benefits by applying relevant rules and regulations. The benefits covered include service pension, enhanced family pension, family pension, death cum retirement gratuity, commutation etc. All employees of A.P. State Govt. and IAS, IPS & IFS officers deputed for the State are covered by the system. The system is expected to help the pension wing in expeditiously settling the pending pension related cases.

S. Ramachandran, AP Correspondent

Computerised Pay and Accounts Office at Uttaranchal Niwas

A computerised Pay and Accounts office at Uttaranchal Niwas, New Delhi was recently inaugurated by Chief Secretary, Uttaranchal, Dr. R S Tolia in presence of Additional

Resident Commissioner, Uttaranchal Ms. Vineeta Kumar. NIC Uttaranchal has had a privilege to introduce the indispensable tool of computerization for formulating various financial transactions of government. This step will add one more node into the stream of computerized accounting system of Government of Uttaranchal.

A.K.Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

SITEG'2004 at Pondicherry

A Symposium on IT & E-Governance (SITEG'2004) was conducted at Yanam, Pondicherry with an objective to showcase the various on-going e-governance activities in the region. The Symposium was

inaugurated by the NIC State Informatics Officer at Pondicherry Sh A.Venkatesan, who was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Sh. P. Gautham Reddy, Regional Administrator, Yanam, presided over the function. A Pilot Project 'Yanam Info Hub' was demonstrated before the audience by Sh Madhusudana Rao, DIO Yanam. Live demonstrations of important software facilitating e-governance suh as File Monitoring System, Budget Info System, e-payroll etc, developed by NIC were also provided by the NIC Team. Later, Sh. Reddy released 'Vision'2004', a document on the forthcoming e-governance initiatives in Yanam Region and appreciated NIC's efforts in this area.

S. Sivanandam, Pondicherry Correspondent

NICian tops Hindi Examination

Ms Sanjana Sharma, a stenographer posted at NIC HQ secured the first rank among hundreds of participants in the Hindi Stenography Examination conducted on a National level by Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs. She was awarded merit certificate for obtaining this distinction. Many other NIC staff members also participated in the course and obtained

distinction marks, thus stressing on NIC's continued commitment towards propagation of Government's Official Language Policy.

Ashok Chopra, NIC HQ

| Yashda's Learning Network Inaugurated

Yeshwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA) is the apex training institute of the Government Of Maharashtra. Under the project CREDIT - Consultation, Research, Evaluation, Dissemination of Information and Training on Good Governance sponsored by Ford Foundation, YASHADA has documented and

disseminated Good Practices and provided experience sharing for Government of Maharashtra officials through this learning network - 'Ideas that Work'. These have been published on the web by NIC Pune (**http://yashadacgg.mah.nic.in**). The site deals wih surfing, cataloguing, indexing, searching and viewing of the selected best practices and experiences of the officials of government of Maharashtra. Sh. Gurinder Singh Sandhu, DG Yashada inaugurated the website in the presence of Sh D.B Bobde, DDG NIC.

Sapna Kapoor, NIC Pune

| Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service [Direct Recruitment] Examination

Rajasthan High Court shall be conducting an examination for direct recruitment of Judicial Officers for the Post of Additional District and Sessions Judge in the cadre of Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service. NIC Computer Center at Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur has prepared a software for data entry of the three page application forms and auto generation of Roll Numbers. Call letters of the eligible Candidates as well as various MIS Reports are also generated through this software.

Deepak Bhargava, Rajasthan

| CD-ROM of Angul District Gazeteer Released

The CD-ROM version of Angul District Gazetteer, developed by NIC Angul District Centre in Orissa was recently released by Sh

Navin Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister at Talcher. The Hon'ble CM thanked the District Administration and NIC for taking the initiative for the preparation of this CD-ROM version of Gazetteer which is the first of its kind in the State. The CD-ROM is a reflection of the history, people, culture, land, flora, fauna, economy and infrastructure of the District. Sh. Nikunj Bihari Dhal, IAS, Collector & DM Angul presided over the meeting and appreciated NIC's role in the preparation of the CD-ROM.

S.K Chatterjee, NIC Orissa

| CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards for Haryana

The Computer Society of India (CSI), India's premier body of IT professionals, and Nihilent Technologies had jointly constituted the annual CSI-Nihilent e-governance awards in the year 2000 for exemplary e-governance projects. For the year 2003-04, Haryana has received two e-Governance Awards of CSI-Nihilent:

1. Winner in the Best e-Governed State - Young category [Project name - e-governance initiatives taken in Haryana]
2. Second Runner-up in the Best e-Governance Project category (Ekal Sewa Kendra - at Kaithal).

The awards were presented by Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, DG-CSIR at a special function on 14th June 2004 at Pune to Sh G.S Bansal, SIO Haryana.

G.S Bansal, Haryana Correspondent

Papers/Articles Published by NIC Officers

| Title : eNRICH - A Community Software Solution Framework

Authors : D.C Misra, Rama Hariharan, NIC HQ

Publication : i4d (Information for Development) Magazine, April'2004

Abstract : enrich, developed by NIC, in response to the need expressed by UNESCO , is a generic and yet easily customizable web based software solution that acts as a gateway to a community's own world of knowledge, communication and empowerment. It enables communities to quickly and efficiently build their own gateway website, enriched with their own local content and connected to knowledge sources and services that are tailored according to their own information and communication needs.

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| Title : Promoting Local Content in Global Market

Authors : K.J Balan, NIC Tamilnadu & S.P Nautiyal, NIC HQ

Publication : Publication : i4d (Information for Development) Magazine, June'2004

Abstract : This article presents a web based application software package Rural Bazar, which could become the means for sharing local content produced by rural communities with global consumers.

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