

Informatics

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TRAINING AT NIC

From Dr. S.K Jain, NIC HQ

In order to keep abreast of latest technologies and tools and to make use of Information Systems developed by NIC in various sectors, special emphasis is laid on users' training. NIC realizes the importance of ICT training as key to the successful implementation of computerization projects and the E-Governance initiatives.

NIC is known all over the Country for its training services in the field of ICT. Training at NIC has proved to be immensely beneficial for the personnel at Ministries and Govt Departments at all levels in bringing about cultural and attitudinal change with regards to computerisation. From awareness creation among senior officers, to routine programming and operational training of the staff at working level, NIC's training facilities encompass all kinds of courses for government functionaries.



■ **The Headquarters**

The Training Division at NIC HQ provides a strong platform for upgrading professional knowledge/ skills of NIC professionals, who in turn play a leading role in integrating state-of-the-art technologies in the working of various ministries/ departments. NIC offers immense training opportunities in well planned and professionally managed training courses, not only on various computer related topics, both in English and Hindi, but also on the application of IT in key sectoral areas. Department of Personnel and Training, and Department of Official Language are sponsoring some of these courses. Besides, NIC also takes up number of customized courses catering to the specific training needs of an organization - Government Departments, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector etc. on request and chargeable basis.

■ **State/ Union Territory Units**

The training activities have also been extended by State/UT Units. Full-fledged training facilities have been set-up at many of the State Unit Headquarters and these facilities keep on augmenting . The State Units offer additional courses to meet the local training requirements. Some of the State Units also organize programmes sponsored by Department of Personnel & Training. Many of the State Units offer programmes in Hindi including some of the programmes sponsored by Department of Official Language.

■ **District Centres**

The District Centres also impart training as part of on-going projects.

■ **LBSNAA, Musoorie**

In addition, NIC has also set-up a specialized training centre at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, to cater to the training needs of regular recruits of Indian Administrative Services.

Types of Training Programmes

NIC training activities are broadly classified as Government Informatics Training Programme for the end-users, Technology Update Programmes for NIC professionals and Customised programmes for the Corporate Sector.

■ **Government Informatics Training Programme**

The following categories of training programmes are offered for the benefit of officials from the Government Ministries/ Departments from Central Government and State Governments including some programmes for the Corporate Sector.

Executive Development Programmes

This series of programmes is meant for middle and senior management of Ministries /Departments. These are being organized for creating awareness about Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and realising the potential of ICT for working towards E-Governance initiatives of the Government.



Office Productivity Tools

These programmes are meant for working level officials of Government Ministries / Departments for imparting necessary skills in Windows based office productivity Government tools and Linux Open Office Suite. Advanced courses on Windows based Office Productivity Tools have also been

introduced keeping in mind the growing needs of the users.

DoP&T Sponsored Programmes

The Department of Personnel & Training sponsors a number of programmes in Utilisation of IT Tools in Government for potential trainers identified by various Ministries / Departments to aid the process of computer literacy in respective Ministries/ Departments. This year the focus has been on new training areas i.e. e-Governance where a number of programmes/ workshops are being planned.

Sectoral Development Programmes

Sectoral programmes focus attention on Ministry/Department specific Application packages & Information Management Tools developed by NIC.

Computer Programmes in Hindi

These training programmes are for promoting the use of Hindi in computers for preparing documents & processing data. An advanced computer programme in Hindi has been introduced this year. Some of these programmes have been sponsored by Department of Official Language (DOL).

■ Technology Update Programmes for NIC Professionals

In order to keep NIC professionals up-to-date in emerging technologies, training programmes/ seminars are offered in the following broad technology areas - Linux, Networking, Windows 2000, Web Technologies, OOP, Databases, Application Development, GIS, Software Engineering and E-Governance.

■ Customized Programmes for the Corporate Sector

As part of corporate training, NIC has been conducting a number of customized training programmes for the benefit of various organizations - Government Departments/ Autonomous Bodies/ Public Sector on request and payment basis. The charges for such training programs depends on the topics, duration and the batch size (maximum 25 participants). These programs are tailor-made as per the training requirements of the user organizations. Requests for customized programs may be made to the training In-charge by giving the details regarding topics to be covered, duration and the number of people to be trained.

■ IT Learning Centres

The Training Division at HQ had undertaken a pilot project in collaboration with Department of Personnel & Training in successfully setting up IT Learning Centres at Ministry of Personnel. Similar activities were also initiated at the Department of Consumer Affairs and Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Spectrum of Technologies Covered

The training programmes offered by NIC covers a wide spectrum of technologies both for the end-user and the NIC professionals which are being listed below.

Operating Systems

Windows 2000
Linux

Office Productivity Tools

MS-Office 2000
Leap Office
Open Office Suite

Data-base Technologies

SQL Server
MYSQL
MS-Access

Application Development Programming Tools

Visual Basic
C++
J2EE
XML
PHP

Networking

LAN
Wireless Networking
Mobile Computing

Internet/ Intranet Technologies

Software Engineering

Software Quality Standards
Software Project Management
Software Configuration Management

GIS & Image Processing

Network & Internet Security

Digital Certification

MEDLARS

Biomedical Research & Internet
On-line Searching of Bio-medical Databases

Utility Mapping

• State-of-the art Training Infrastructure

- Most modern training facilities including well designed class rooms, state-of-the-art computer labs having internet connectivity for providing hands-on training.
- Networked Client Server architecture with multiple operating systems - Windows 2000/ LINUX.
- High speed Satellite based Internet connectivity
- Multi-media Videoconferencing and DirecPC broadcasting facility
- Variety of software tools and e-learning/ tutor packages



• Training Division Website

The Training Division at New Delhi has a dedicated web site (<http://training.nic.in>) with the following components :

- Information about training services of HQ as well as State Units
- Publishing of Courseware
- Bulletin Board for exchange of ideas
- e-Learning packages
- Information of nominations of NIC professionals for Seminars / Conferences
- Information on in-take of Student Trainees, which NIC takes from various academic institutes

• Teaching Faculty

NIC Training Division has its own permanent faculty drawn from leading professional institutions and having years of training experience. The faculty keep themselves up-to-date on the emerging technologies while working and using latest technologies. Subject experts from NIC support groups and guest faculties are also invited wherever it is necessary.



• Training Methodology

Over the years, NIC has perfected the art of introducing new technologies successfully. It makes use of the state-of-the-art audio visual equipments, computer based tutor packages and well designed work books. The teaching methodology comprise lecture cum live demonstration, discussions followed by practice sessions or field visits. Extensive use of case studies and group projects are being made to facilitate adult learning. The man-machine ratio is kept 1:1 during practice sessions.

• Course Material Preparation/ Distribution

Well designed work-books on Windows and office productivity tools including e-mail has been prepared in-house and printed copies are available to all the state units to facilitate adult learning. In addition standardized course material for other courses has been very well designed which may include lecture notes, reference material, in-house compiled workbooks, assignments and project work. The course material gets updated from time to time in accordance with the latest version of software. In order to share the course material with other state units, it has been published on the Training Division Website.

• Course Evaluation/ Feed-back Analysis

At the end of each programme, strength and weaknesses of the course are discussed and participants feedback is taken. Their feedback is being implemented in the subesequent courses. Feedback is also received from the ministry through NIC officers. It has been observed that

participants who have been trained in these programmes are being used in the implementation of Information Systems developed by NIC very effectively. Many of the new courses are being introduced as a result of the feedback received from HoDs and the participants.

The Training Division at New Delhi is also planning to initiate web-cast of lectures from the training division halls in the near future.

■ e-Learning Initiatives

NIC fully realizes the potential of e-Learning technologies. It has taken the initiative of assessing e-learning products for use within the organisation. This would make vast amount of e-learning materials available on the intranet/ internet to all officers of NIC.

Accolades.....

This what some of the participants say about our training programmes....

- Network setup in the lab is excellent
- Faculty is excellent and technically very well competent
- Way of teaching using PowerPoint presentation was excellent
- I am impressed by warm and cordial environment of Training Division
- Faculty response was very good to clear all doubts.
- Training division faculty has put extra efforts to make the participants understand the concept of application development through a programming language.
- Excellent and very well designed work books for hand on sessions. This type of structuring, you will not get in the books available in the market

The average rating received from the participants on the overall quality of the courses organized by NIC calculated on a scale of 4 is given below :

Course Structure	Course material	Teaching Faculty	Practical Orientation	Usefulness of course	Classroom Facilities	Computer facility	Overall Impression
3.50	3.60	3.57	3.39	3.62	3.81	3.78	3.56

**Training Statistics for some NIC Centres during the past year
(April 2002-March 2003)**

NIC Centre	No. of Courses	No. of Participants
NIC HQ	77	1611
A&N	21	236
Andhra Pr	44	886
Assam	42	906
Chattisgarh	26	450
Chandigarh	42	432
Goa	22	382
Gujarat	33	976
J&K	2	65
MP	42	723
Maharashtra	45	1112
Orissa	13	225
Sikkim	5	136
Tamil Nadu	122	1479
Uttaranchal	25	500
West Bengal	29	456
Total	548	9669

**For further details , please contact
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on Sustainable Agriculture

From M. Moni, NIC HQ

The Bhoovigyan Vikas Foundation is a Consortium of Earth Sciences registered as a professional association under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It has been founded to bring together all earth science professionals to work towards the common goal of 'saving our planet' through various activities designed to achieve sustainable development. Towards this end, it works in association

with government and non-government agencies as well as people's organisation at all levels- local, regional, national and international- and also acts as an independent clearing house for the exchange of ideas and activities, providing a constant flow of information, advice and encouragement.

The 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture, Water Resources Development and Earth Care Policies was organized during 18-20 December, 2002 at SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi by the Bhoovigyan Vikas Foundation.



Hon'ble Vice President Sh. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat with other dignitaries at the conference

NIC played an important role during the event and hosted a Pre-Conference Tutorial on 'Fusion of Technologies for sustainable Agricultural Development' for two days prior to the conference at NIC Headquarters. A number of NIC Officers working in the area of Agricultural Informatics formed a part of the organizing committee which had Dr. N Vijayaditya, DG (NIC) as its Chairperson and Sh. M. Moni, DDG (NIC) as the Secretary-General.

• **The Conference**

The first UN conference on the 'Human Environment' held at Stockholm in 1972 aroused global consciousness on ecology, environment and poverty. Over thirty years later now, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), would be meeting in late August, 2003 at Johannesburg, South Africa focussing in five specific areas- Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity (WEHAB). The Second International Conference of the Bhoovigyan Vikas Foundation, closely following on the heels of the WSSD, was held with an aim to discuss important issues pertaining to Sustainable Agriculture, Water Resources Development and Earth-Care Policies.



Sh. S.Lakshminarayanan, Additional Secretary, DIT, addressing the gathering

The conference attended by a host of National and International experts in the area of sustainable development, included key technical and plenary sessions on important issues, such as drinking water supply, sustainable agriculture and rural livelihood, bio-technology in developing countries, bio-diversity, strategies for globalisation in agriculture sector etc.

• **The Pre-Conference Tutorial**

One of the highlights of the event was the pre-conference tutorial on 'Fusion of Technologies for sustainable Agricultural Development' organized by National Informatics Centre. The tutorial was organized to further the mission of The National Agricultural Policy-2000 (NAP-2000) which envisaged application of frontier technologies such as information technology, bio-technology, remote sensing technology, pre and post-harvest technology, energy saving technology, technology for environmental protection through national research system as well as proprietary research. Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Bio-Technology and Environment Technology are viewed as "the drivers" of globalisation, with their complementarities of liberalisation, privatisation and tighter Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).



Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG NIC being welcomed at the Pre-Conference Tutorial

The tutorial was organized on the premise that though various State Governments have recognised the "Convergence of Core Technologies and E-Governance" as the tool for sustainable development and globalisation of economy, they have to realize that an agrarian society needs a-governance (agriculture-governance) to make India a first-rate economy. Developments in enabling technologies such as Geomatics which is the synergy of multiple disciplines namely: GIS, Remote Sensing, Image Processing, GPS, Cartography, Database Technology, Statistics, Operations Research, Artificial Intelligence, and other Geo-related sciences, facilitate "Informatics-led Agricultural Development" which will be a step towards precision agriculture in India. Thus, recognising the importance of "Fusion of technologies for synergising development and growth", the Organising Committee of the conference organised the Pre-Conference Tutorial for the benefit of Researchers, Scientists, Extension Professionals, Administrators, Economists, Development Planners and Academicians. The event included talks and discussions on key issues by eminent speakers and subject experts.



Sh M. Moni, Deputy Director General, NIC addressing the participants at the conference

■ **Book Release**

Another highlight of the conference was the release of books on subjects related to sustainable development and other sub-themes of the conference. The proceedings of the Earth Day celebrations and International Conference on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Lifestyles held in April, 2001 in the form of a book titled "Sustainable Development and Sustainable Lifestyles" written by Sh. M. Moni, DDG, NIC along with Sh. K. V. Sundaram, the Founder Chairman of Bhoovigyan Vikas Foundation were also released during the occasion by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

■ **The Awards**

The prestigious Bhoovigyan Awards, instituted by the Bhoovigyan Vikas Foundation, were also presented to the eminent earth scientists and technologists during the event, to honour their significant contribution towards the cause. Dr. A. Mohan, Principal Systems Analyst, NIC, received

the "Bhoovigyan Leadership Award" for professional skills and expertise in the application of Informatics tools for development planning and GIS/RES Applications for decentralised planning.



Dr. A. Mohan receiving the 'Bhoovigyan Leadership Award'

For further information, please visit
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e-READINESS EXPECTATIONS of Rural Masses – Findings and Inferences

Saurabh Gupta & N.K.Prasad, NIC Bihar

In order to assess the expectations of the rural masses from the Government and to encourage the rural participation in plans and policies, 1st National Conference on '**e-Readiness Expectations of Rural Masses**' was organised at Patna recently. The Conference was inaugurated by the then Hon'ble Union State Minister of Communications and IT **Dr. Sanjay Paswan**. **The conference included varied** technical sessions and was attended by delegates from all over India.

A questionnaire containing around 25 questions were circulated among the participants (around 179 respondents) to draw important inferences on relevant issues. Some of the interesting findings

include



The event being inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister

The extent of satisfaction with the present systems of information availability showed that 71.51 per cent of rural Masses are not satisfied with present system of information availability. This indicates that there is an urgent need for alternative source/ means of Information system.

- With respect to question on reach of govt. services to the poor masses, 63 per cent were in agreement with the view that Govt. services are not reaching to the real beneficiaries. Analysis shows that main reason for officers not able to provide the information is lack of good information system. Hence, an effective information system is essentially required.
- 66 per cent of the rural population were well aware of the fact that Communications and Information Technology Tools are well utilised for the improvement of living standards of the rural mass. It is also encouraging for the planners that 66 per cent of the rural masses were aware of Internet.



Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG NIC, receiving a memento from Dr. Sanjay Paswan

74 per cent were of the opinion that information on Health & Tele-medicine will help the rural mass in ameliorating their health conditions.

Further, 63.69 per cent were of the opinion that information on Land Records is of absolute necessity for the rural mass. Also, 61.45 per cent were of the opinion that School/ Virtual Schooling can play very important role in educating the rural mass.

- Maximum participation was from the age group 30 ~ 40 and the participants were mostly graduates or matriculate showing that educated youth can be trained and motivated for the implementation of the rural welfare schemes.

- Only 59 per cent participants were well aware of the Govt. Welfare Schemes thus emphasizing on the need for effective publicity of Govt programmes. It was also suggested that effective **ICT based Information Facilitation Counters (IFCs)** ought to be opened at the Block level.

ORISSA- the Soul of India

From A.K Hota, Orissa Correspondent

Orissa has become a multi dimensional, multi coloured, many splendoured, vibrant & boisterous modern state all set on its journey in the present millennium to make its presence and voice felt in the nooks & crannies of the world through the successful growth in IT sector –Multi-point Video Conferencing facilities covering districts, hooking up to e-Gram, e-Security, e- School, e-Library, e-Court Projects and lot of Citizen Centric governance steps.

Since the inception of NIC Orissa State Unit in January 1986, as a "Total Solution provider" it is effectively assisting the State Government functionaries in timely decision making through the implementation of various e-governance projects.

■ Major Projects

Budget Computerisation

Orissa is one of the first states in the country to prepare a fully computerised State Budget since 1992. A software developed by NIC Orissa for the Finance Department has proved to be indispensable for formulating the figures of the Annual Budget and the corresponding Supplementary Budgets or Vote-on-Accounts both in English and in Oriya. The Budget Software also handles monitoring day-to-day activities based on Budget figures. Various reports catering to the requirements of the State and Central Govt. and external funding agencies are generated through the Software. The Software enables the State Govt. to make forecasts of the State Budget.

Treasury Computerisation

The Accounting procedure has been fully computerised in 16 District Treasuries and 2 Special Treasuries in the first phase by NIC Orissa. All sections of Treasury Accounting procedure have been covered to meet the requirements of the User Department. NIC has also conducted Workshops and exhaustive Training Programmes for the officers and staff of treasuries.

Teachers' Provident Fund Computerisation

Computerisation of Provident Fund Accounts of about 3 lakhs Teachers of Aided Educational Institutions has been carried out by NIC Orissa . Through computerisation, arrears since 1996 were cleared in the first phase. The Account-slips and Ledgers have been generated after going through different validation procedure for all the Arrear accounts.

Land Records Computerisation

Tehsil level computerization involving all the 171 tehsils of the state have been taken up by NIC Orissa State Unit. Till date 29 tehsils have been Operationalised in the first phase. The application software "BHULEKH" developed by NIC Orissa facilitates the issue of RoR Certified Copy , Miscellaneous Certificates & undertake Mutation Cases through the computer, thus significantly reducing the work load , delivery time & providing better public service.

Orissa Registration Information System (ORIS)

The ORIS package has been successfully running at District Registration office , Khurda since 22nd July 2002. The package takes care of various activities such as Registration of different deeds like Sale, GPA, Agreement, Mortgage, Lease , Endorsement of Documents , generation of receipts and various reports etc.

Computerisation of Orissa Legislative Assembly

NIC has developed many important computer software packages like Assembly Questions, Library Information System, Press clipping, Member's who's who, Payroll, Member's paybill etc. A campus LAN was established with internet connectivity covering the VIP chambers.

Passport Computerisation

Regional Passport office, Bhubaneswar has been computerized by NIC. The receipt /enquiry counters, index checking is being done by the computer and whole process of passport issue is streamlined.

Alert System

AlertOrissa has been designed to manage Pre-disaster, During Disaster and Post-Disaster situations. The system provides a module on Contingency Planning (District statistics, Resource Planning, Vulnerable Locations, Flood Shelter Points etc), Calamity Monitoring (Capturing Daily Situation Data, Final Damage Data, Query on Affected, Casualty, Damages, Relief measures etc), Past Calamities (Affected area/Population, Casualty, Damages, Relief Measures, Map based Analysis etc).

• E-Gram – the rural information gateway

The E-Gram project, the first of this kind in Orissa, is a humble beginning at Ganjam with active initiation of District Collector and DRDA Ganjam.

- Internet/Intranet connection has been provided to all the 22 Blocks via the NICNET from NIC Berhampur.
- Intranet connection is also available through DRDA.
- Information on various developmental schemes, social security measures and the like are

updated periodically and available on the web site <http://drdaganjam.nic.in> and <http://ganjam.nic.in> . It enables access and review of progress in Blocks, Tahasils, District by Higher Officials at State Head Quarter as well as Rural Development Ministry GOI and the common public.

- The information on prevailing Govt./Market rates of different agricultural and allied produces are available to the farmers/SHGs to get the best price for their produces.
- Self Help Groups get latest information on various new rural technologies for their improvement

■ Orissa High Court

The NIC-High Court of Orissa Computer Centre was set up in 1993. The Main weekly cause list & the daily Supplementary cause list are generated for all the benches of the High Court and regularly uploaded to the <http://www.indiancourts.nic.in> website. At the Filing Counter all types of cases are filed with automatic registration. Online caveat matching is done during filing and receipts bearing necessary details are provided to the petitioners. Status of any case can also be ascertained through the query facility. Around 8000 headnotes of reportable judgements of Orissa High Court are available at website which is regularly augmented. Payroll with all schedules for all officers & staff (nearly 500) of Orissa High Court is also regularly prepared. NIC proposes to set up E-Courts and Public Interface Systems at the High Court. Besides 285 subordinate courts of the state have also been considered for computerization.

■ Computerisation of Central Excise

The Computerisation of the Central Excise & Customs Department, Orissa started with the implementation of the **SERMON**(System for Excise Revenue & Monitoring) project developed by NIC in all the Central Excise divisions in 1997. This started a new era of electronically capturing the documents through the software and to automatically eliminate human errors. SERMON has several built-in features for capturing Assessee Information and Excise Returns which is required by Audit, Preventive, Statistics, Technical and other sections. A highly reliable database of revenue particulars of all assessees has been created using this software which has proved as a boon to the department for its utility. Another application named **STREMS**(Service Tax Revenue Monitoring System) has been recently installed in all formations to capture Service Tax Returns to monitor revenue of growing no. of service tax assesses. Five web enabled applications viz. **CRRD** (Cyber Revenue Realization Details), **CRRS** (Cyber Revenue Realization Summary) , **SAPS** (System for Allotment of PAN based Service Tax Payer Code), **SACER** (System for Allotment of Central Excise Registration) & **PAMS** (Provisional Assessment Monitoring System) have also been implemented in all the Central Excise divisions under two commissionerates of Orissa.

■ NIC District Units

NIC has its District Units in all the 30 Districts of Orissa. Most of the Districts are connected through IPA VSATs , and have VC facility. Various important projects such as Land Records Computerisation, District Industries Computerisation, MIS on Pension, Civil Supply Ration Card system, Disaster Managment, AGMARKNet, Office Procedure Automation etc have been implemented at Districts in various departments.

■ Other Projects

E-Governance in Municipality Sector

With implementation of Computerised Birth & Death Registration system and Holding tax monitoring system the Cuttack Municipal corporation became the first corporation in Orissa to go for automation.

Solid waste Management System

The package developed by NIC Orissa carries features like general information on local bodies, ward wise details, sources of solid wastes, status of roads, mode of transportation of waste, waste disposal and recycling, financial status and involvement of NGOs.



Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department says- "*E-governance is not only about making different agencies of the administration closely-knit and reforms in the functioning of the government, it also means a cleaner & healthier environment. This is what the e-governance on Solid waste Management developed by NIC aims to achieve.*"

■ Secretariat Centre and LAN

NIC Secretariat Centre has been functional since December 1996 within the Secretariat and is well equipped with Server Room, Computer LAB for Software development, Computer Centre dedicated for training and a training hall, which is used for Theory classes, Seminars, Software Presentations etc. A Secretariat wide LAN with fiber optics backbone with facility for future expansion based on a detailed survey of number of computers presently available and future requirements in each floor within each block of the Secretariat, has been installed in the Secretariat keeping in view data communication requirements in various departments.



■ **C.M's Multi-Point Video Conferencing Unit**

For promotion of ICT applications in State Government departments, multipoint Video Conferencing facility in the office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa was inaugurated jointly by the Hon'ble Minister, CIT and Hon'ble Chief Minister Orissa. Till date 14 Video Conferencing sessions have been successfully conducted from C.M's Studio on monitoring of Disaster Mitigation, Commerce/Industry Policy, Distress sale of Paddy , Mission Shakti, PMGSY & CRF Projects etc.

■ **NITPU, Bhubaneswar**

National Information Technology Promotion Unit is the ISP for orissa and provides a wide range of Internet and E-mail services to the Govt Departments in the State

■ **Web Services**

To keep the citizens informed and updated about the various activities and functions of the department there by ensuring transparency NIC Orissa has developed a number of web sites including the State official website (<http://orissagov.nic.in>), website of Legislative Assembly, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Deptt and many other important departments. The websites are rich in content and provide useful application forms etc for download.

■ **Training**

NIC Orissa with a dedicated Training Division and the well equipped training center at Secretariat Cell is conducting a series of training programmes for different levels of officials based on the training calendar published every year.

■ **NIC Orissa at a glance**

- NIC Orissa State Unit since Jan'86
- NIC Secretariat Centre since Dec'96
- NIC Governor House Cell

- NIC Chief Minister Cell
 - NIC Orissa Legislative Assembly Cell
 - NIC Highcourt Cell at Cuttack
 - NIC Central Excise Cell
 - NIC Commercial Tax Cell
 - NIC ROC Cell
 - NIC Finance Department Cell
 - NIC Treasury Nerve Centre
 - NIC Board of Revenue Centre
 - NIC RDC Cell at Berhampur
 - 30 District Centres
-

For further information, please write to:

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Email : sio@ori.nic.in**

- **Kangra**
- **Changlang**

KANGRA -Aiming High, Aiming Far.....

From Mukesh K Ralli, Himachal Pradesh Correspondent

Lying 526-km northwest of New Delhi, Dharamshala is the headquarter of the Kangra District and was recently declared as the winter capital of Himachal Pradesh. Kangra valley is one of the most pleasant, relaxing and spiritual places in the Himalayas. Marvelously scenic, the upper Dharamshala is well wooded with oak, cedar, pine and other timber yielding trees and offers some lovely walks and finer views. In 1855, more than 3,000 Tibetan made Dharamshala, especially Mcleodganj as their temporary abode. It is also the Headquarter of Tibetan Government. His Holiness Dalai Lama also resides in Dharamshala.

The **NIC District Office** was setup at Dharamshala in September 1988. It started its activities immediately and created a lot of awareness about computers in the district. To help the district administration, many software namely Schemes Monitoring, Revenue Recoveries, Driving License, Arms & Ammunition Information system were developed and implemented. Since then, the District Centre is providing a yeoman service to not only the administration but also various other departments viz Excise & Taxation, Revenue, Education, Welfare, Cooperatives, Treasury, District Courts, Food & Civil Supplies etc.

Local Area Network has been established in the District Collectorate and all the branches of Collectorate are linked to each other. Officers have been provided with Window based machines and Internet Connectivity has been provided to each officer through DAMA VSAT

● **E-Governance Centre**

Due to keenness to see District Kangra on the top in the area of good governance, Sh. Prabodh Saxena, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, with the active support of NIC, has set up an E-Governance Centre within the premises of the Collectorate at Dharamshala. The Centre, the first of its kind in HP, showcases several e-governance applications. The E-Governance Centre has been established with the following objectives.

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

Following activities have been covered in the e-governance centre.

Vehicle Registration (VAHAN).

Driving License (SARTHI)

Registration of Land Deeds (HIMRIS).

Arms License (ALIS).

Cash counter.

Passport Form Collection Counter (WEBPASS)

Land Records –Issue of Record Of Rights

-Nakal (HimBhoomi)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh inaugurated the E-Governance Centre on 2nd July 2002. In an attempt to improve efficiency and responsiveness in administration, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established a Video Conferencing facility at Dharamshala. Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated this facility also on 2nd July 2002.



The conferencing system has multipoint conferencing facility through which nine sites can confer with each other simultaneously. The VC studio has been established in the e-governance centre itself. For

senior IAS / HAS Officers undergoing training on computers, six VC sessions were held from Shimla on "E-governance in District Kangra" The complete presentations were given from Dharamshala on the activities being covered in this centre.

■ The Road Map

In future the citizens will be able to see the status of their applications through Internet. Touch screen is also being proposed to be installed in the e-governance centre. Following activities are proposed:

- Driving License Application Status
- Arms License Application Status
- Vehicle Registration RC Status
- Vehicle Details i.e. Owner, Chassis No. etc.
- List of Developmental Works sanctioned in Panchayat.

Acknowledging the contribution made by NIC in Himachal Pradesh in general and in District Kangra particularly, Hon'ble Chief Minister honoured Dr. Ambreesh Kumar, Sr. Tech. Director & former SIO HP for providing full support for setting up the e-governance centre. He also honoured Sh. J.P. Kukreti, Technical Director, Transport Div. NICHQ for implementing the Vehicle Registration software in the e-governance centre.

Kangra district took another lead forward in land records computerisation when Honorable Chief Minister inaugurated the facility of distribution of the Records of Rights on 26th Dec. 2002 at newly constructed Mini Secretariat which became functional on the same day.

The Website of district Kangra will be launched soon and which will have information from G2C viz. Blood Donor directory, Complete District telephone directory, Old aged/Widow Pensioner's database, Disabled/ Handicapped persons database, Board of School Education results etc.

The DIO/DIA of Kangra District were also presented by the Hon'ble CM with commendation certificates and cash awards in the form of "Parshasti Patra" and "Kisan Vikas Patra" .

District Informatics Officer Bhupinder Pathak District Informatics Associate Akshay Mehta
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For further information, please contact:

**NIC Kangra District Centre
District Collectorate - Dharamshala
Kangra , Himachal Pradesh
Email : kan@hp.nic.in**

Changlang -Land of Biodiversity

From Radhe Hinda, DIO Changlang

Changlang District, showered with Bio-diversity is the eastern most part of India, having international boundary with Myanmar (Burma) in the east and south, district boundaries with Tirap District in the southwest and Lohit District in the north and State boundary with Assam in the west, where the morning Sun light first touches the Horizon of the eastern Mountain ranges of the District while the rest of the Country still napping in their cozy beds waiting for the emergence of the dawn of the day.

Prior to 14th November 1987, Changlang was a part of Tirap District. Under the Arunachal Pradesh Reorganization of Districts Amendment Bill, 1987, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh formally declared the area as a new District on 14th November 1987 and Changlang became 10th district of Arunachal Pradesh. The district is famous for Namdapha National Park which is the only park in the World to have the four Feline species of big cat namely the Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Clouded Leopard..

■ **NIC at CHANGLANG**

NIC Changlang district Unit was established in July 1989 with only one officer from NIC with a single 386 with a few terminals. It has been supporting and coordinating with the district administration through the use of computers and email services since its inception. NIC district Unit has been implementing citizen interface services of the District Administration as well as various departments in the district and is providing NICNET services to them.

■ **Major Applications**

NIC District Unit has developed and implemented several Application Software packages based on citizen services interface as well as office automation software for the district administration. The prominent ones include ...

Electoral Database and Information System

developed for generating voter lists and monitoring voters' information during Elections.

Arms Licence Registration and Information System

developed for Arms Licence Section in the District Administration and is used for registration of Arms and issuing licenses in the District.

Land Information System of Arunachal Pradesh

developed for Directorate of Land Management, Government of Arunachal Pradesh . The data entry for the Changlang district is underway. This system is expected to bring efficiency, transparency and accountability in the management of land and its records maintenance in the State.

■ Dial-up Internet connections

Dial-up internet connections have been provided by NIC district Unit to a number of key Government departments despite having limitations of infrastructure

■ Training

From time to time, NIC Changlang has been imparting training to staff of District Administration and various departments of the district. The staff training is highly desirable to assuage and break the electronics and computer phobia especially being faced by the non-technical staff.

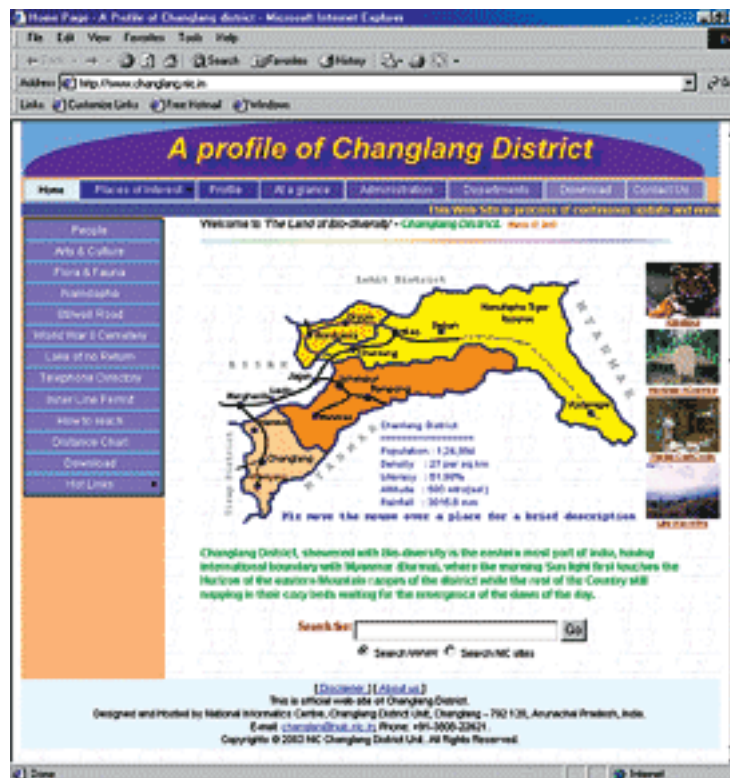
■ Launch of District Website

<http://www.changlang.nic.in>

Recently, the Changlang district was linked with WWW in the Information Super Highway with the launch of its website on February 10th. The website covers detailed profile of the district viz., District at a glance, Government Departments, District Administration, places of tourist interest in detail, such as the famous Stilwell Road (Ledo Road), the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve as well as information about the people, arts, culture and tradition, Inner line Permit (Restricted Area Permit) Information, Distance Chart and Telephone Directory of the District.

The Website , during development, was regularly monitored by a team of officers from district administration including the Deputy Commissioner and the local Minister.

The Changlang District Website was formally inaugurated by Shri Talem Tapok, Deputy Commissioner, Changlang District in presence of all the Administrative Officers and Departmental Head of the district with full of enthusiasm and fervour. Everyone present highly appreciated the effort of NIC district Unit in launching the Website. Sh. Thinghap Taiju, Minister of State, Irrigation and Flood control, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh, who reviewed the Website was highly impressed and appreciated the endeavor involved and effort made by the NIC district Unit while developing the website.



NIC Changlang District Unit
District Informatics Officer
Radhe Hinda
District Informatics Associate
K.Gopal Krishna Sharma

For further information, please contact :
NIC Changlang District Unit
Office of Deputy Commissioner
Changlang-792120
Arunachal Pradesh
Email : changlan@hub.nic.in

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STORAGE AREA NETWORKS

From Neeta Verma, NIC HQ

With more and more business processes and citizen services operating over the net, demand for protection of data has risen with efficient backup and recovery solutions. Thus there is a need to set up a strategic storage infrastructure that facilitates **high availability, quick scalability, efficient management & optimized utilization of resources.**

Traditional server attached storage commonly known as Direct Attached Storage (DAS), due to its inherent limitations finds it difficult to fulfill above requirements of the storage infrastructure. Therefore many organizations/ data centres are embracing a networked storage infrastructure known as **Storage Area Network.**

The Basics

Storage Area Network (SAN) is a high-speed special-purpose network that interconnects different data storage devices with associated servers and other computing devices. Typically, a storage area network is a part of the overall network of computing resources in a data centre. SANs support disk mirroring, backup, restore, archival and retrieval of archived data, data migration from one storage device to another, and the sharing of data among different servers in a network.

SANs are built up from variety of hardware components. RAID Storage systems, switches, Servers, backup devices, Interface cards and cabling all come together to form a SAN. Devices in the SAN are connected by a high speed, high capacity network. Currently, fibre channel is the most popular technology for SAN implementation because of its high speed, non-blocking architecture, its ability to scale from 133 Mbps to 1 Gbps and beyond, and its flexibility to allow many different high level protocols to operate over its infrastructure.

SAN Management Software

Generally referred in terms of hardware, SANs often include specialized software for their management, monitoring and configuration. In today's multi-vendor and hardware-diverse SAN environments, this management software is often proprietary or tied to certain products and vendors. While this is beginning to change, it still means that SAN management software must be selected with great care, and consideration given to the SAN equipment manufacturers, OS platforms, firmware revisions, HBA drivers and client applications.

The Benefits

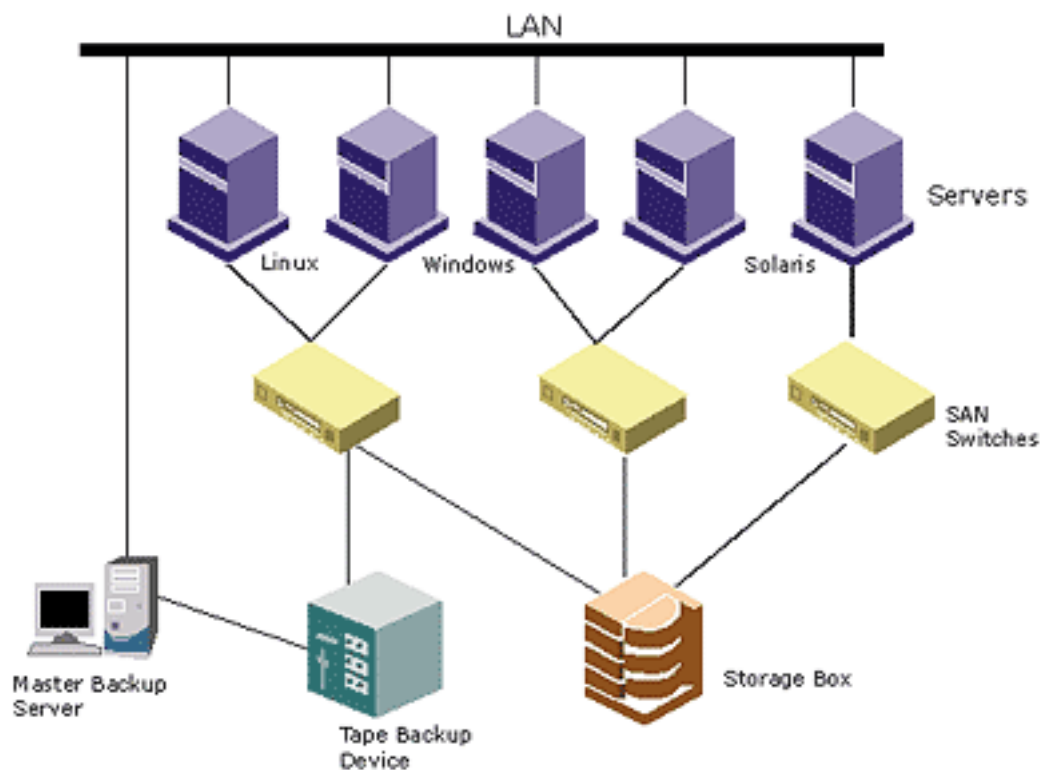
High Availability

SANs are designed to facilitate a high availability environment that can help prevent (and better

tolerate) system outages to reduce the risk of downtime. One of the most common ways SANs support high-availability operations is by enhancing server clustering implementations, which are typically used to ensure that applications continue to run in the event of a host server failure.

Enhanced Backup & Recovery Solutions

One of the most valuable time and cost saving features of a SAN architecture is its ability to offload backup operations from a LAN and/or backup servers, thereby increasing the amount of LAN bandwidth available to end users. Serverless backup extends these performance gains by removing more than 90 percent of the backup administration overhead that is usually placed on a server as backups are performed. This is achieved by incorporating some of the backup intelligence into the data storage or connectivity peripherals themselves. This can significantly free up backup servers by releasing them from large portions of a backup operation's administration and data moving chores. Thus SAN based backup solutions enable the administrators to optimize network and server utilization.



Efficient Utilization of Resources through Consolidation

Traditional server-attached storage is often difficult to update or centrally manage. Each server must be shut down to physically add and configure new storage. In contrast, SANs provide a way to add storage without the downtime and disruption associated with server-attached storage upgrades. Moreover, the same number of administrators can typically manage much larger amounts of SAN-based storage, often three to four times that of DAS environments.

By consolidating servers in a SAN environment, organizations can greatly reduce the number of devices and disparate systems they must manage—potentially saving a significant amount of

money on server maintenance and personnel resources.

SAN at NIC

NIC has set up a state of art SAN in its data center at Delhi. Presently equipped with 8 Tera bytes of storage capacity this SAN can be upgraded to 30 Tera bytes. This SAN is being used as storage infrastructure for Web Sites, Portals, Citizen Services, Databases, E-Mail and other Internet services.

For further information, visit <http://webservices.nic.in> _

- **Webstat- Website Traffic Analysis**
- **Web Enabled Hotel Reservation System**
- **NIC Webcasts-Pravasi Bhartiya Divas**
- **Computerization at Deptt of Explosives**
- **eNRICH-the Community Browser**

WEBSTAT :Web Site Traffic Analysis

M. Kamalakkannan, NIC HQ

The true purpose of developing and launching of website is achieved only when it is visited by the intended audience. And to gauge the number of 'hits' being received by a website, one needs to analyse the website traffic. Once you have determined that people are indeed visiting your Web site, the next step is to identify where they come from, which pages they are viewing. After determining what content is popular and what content is ignored, you can tailor your content to satisfy your visitors. A more detailed analysis of your Web site traffic will assist you in improving

your service on the Web which in turn increases the traffic to your Web site. The information about your Web site traffic generally comes from web server log files.

■ Log Files

Whenever a visitor comes to your site — browsing at certain pages, perhaps downloading some documents or signing up for a service, and leaving again — information about him and his actions are recorded in a log file. i.e Every communication between a client browser and a Web server results in an entry in the server's log file. A busy Web site, generates hundreds or thousands of log entries per hour and compiles them in a log file. A raw log file entry looks something like this:

```
202.144.109.226 - - [09/Mar/2003:11:01:50 +0500] "GET /ministry.htm HTTP/1.0" 200 70342
"http://goirectory.nic.in/goibody.htm" "Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 5.5; Windows
98)"
```

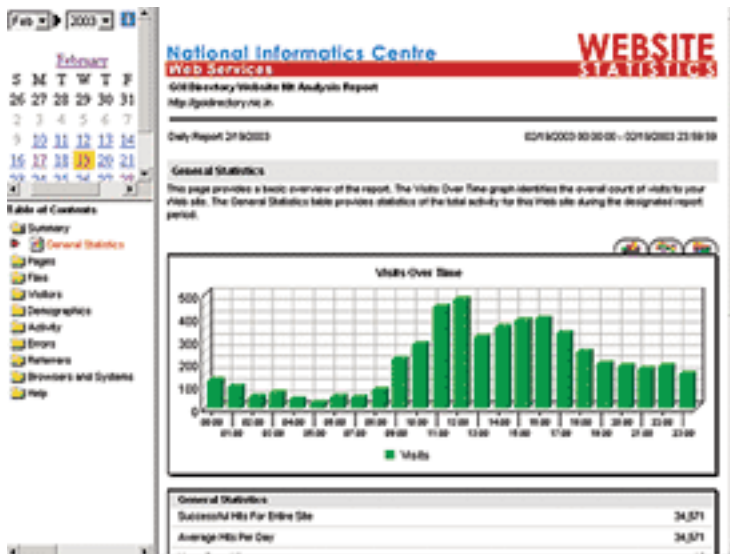
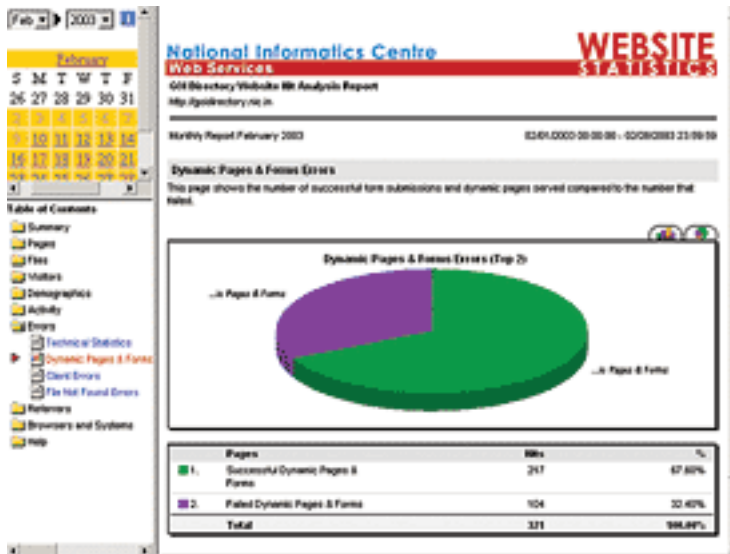
As you can see, this entry shows where the visitor came from, what page was requested, when it was requested, which referred the page, and even what browser and OS they were running. However, one can not learn much just by looking at the raw log files. To get the most out of the data, you need to have the details of the hits on your web site, and comparative analysis of figures over time. That is where WebStat – Web site traffic analysis service comes in.

■ WebStat

WebStat Service takes the raw log file data and converts it into meaningful information about your Web site traffic.

WebStat works in three stages: gathering the data, analyzing the data, and reporting on the data. In the first stage, it takes the daily log files from the server and parses it into a common format to extract the data. During the data analysis stage, complex heuristics are applied to the raw data to categorize the data into visits and page views, hits and many more. This analysis might be based on the IP address of the visitor. Once the data has been analyzed it is typically placed in a database to facilitate reporting. The final stage of WebStat is generating reports from the analyzed data. During this stage the analyzed data is read from the database and tabulated into many different reports, each answering a specific question. Graphs and charts are also generated during this stage.

The WebStat Service generates the daily, monthly & yearly traffic analysis reports of the sites hosted on NIC Web Servers and the kind of reports it generates are explained below



Hits, Page Views & Visits

You can get the details of the total & average Hits, Page Views & Visits on the site and the total number of unique visitors & number of time they visited the site

Top Pages & Top Directories

You can identify which of your pages/dynamic pages/directories are mostly visited and which files are mostly downloaded. It also gives you the list of Top Entry Pages

Top Visitors & Visitor Demographics

You can determine who all are visiting your Web site and they are from which Organistaion, Country & Geographic Region .

Server Activity

You can get the details of most/least active Day/Date/Hour and the Bandwidth usage(in KB) over the period. It also gives you the hits by day of the week and hour of the day

Errors

You can get the complete technical statistics of successful, failed & cached hits and the list of not found error pages. This will help you in fixing broken links, dead images and malfunctioning scripts/programs.

Top Referrers & Search Engine

You can learn where your visitors are coming from. For example, did they find your site by using a search engine such as Google or did they click on a link at another site? If they did use a search engine, which keywords did they use to locate your site?

Top Browsers & Platforms

You can get the details of the Visitor's Browser and operating System versions which will help you in designing the site for better viewing and developing it with relevant technologies. The detailed analysis of your Web Site Traffic can give you lots of promising traffic-building ideas, and also help you measure which ones live up to their promise.

If your site is hosted on NIC's server and you would like to access the traffic analysis reports of your Web Site, please log on to our Support Centre at <http://webservices.nic.in>

WEB ENABLED Hotel Reservation System

Ajay Chahal, Himachal Pradesh Correspondent

The Web Enabled Hotels Reservation System software has been designed & developed by the NIC HP State Unit, Shimla for meeting the requirements of any Group/Chain having Hotels at different physical locations for advance reservation through travel agencies/hotels and by general public over the Internet.

■ **Benefits**

- The prospective customer need not contact the individual hotels or marketing office/agents to know the accommodation availability, and even to get the reservation done, if so desired.
- Complete software and database located centrally only at one place enabling easy maintenance and making it independent of the User location, technically
- Bare minimum hardware/software needed at the User end to start operationalising the system.
- Accessibility of the software through any local ISP.
- Reduced costs and time on training, telephone bills and end user support

■ **Key Features**

The software has three interfaces, all web-enabled, for general public, reservation offices/hotels

and the management. The features available to the respective user groups are explained below.

General Public (open to all Internet users):

- Online Accommodation Availability Status of any HPTDC hotel at <http://hptdc.nic.in/viewuser8.asp>
- Advance reservation by Internet Users at <http://hptdc.nic.in> website for any period thus eliminating the need to visit HPTDC Reservation Offices
- Option to send payment by bank draft/Cheque either by post or deposit in any UTI Bank branch into HPTDC account through anywhere banking of UTI Bank.

Hotels /Travel Agents/ Reservation Offices (Restricted access):

- Online status of accommodation in any HPTDC Hotel
- No long distance STD Calls to CRO/Hotels
- Instant Reservation from any location (hotels or marketing offices)
- Facility to block accommodation in case of doubt
- Generation of following reports
- Daily Reservations (hotel wise, booking office wise)
- Expected arrival chart for any date for all hotels
- Customer queries
- Daily blocking/cancellations reports

Management (Limited access):

- Booking office wise business being generated for any particular date/period
- Comparison of bookings being done for the current period with previous year
- Incorporation of Discount/Special offer packages for any or all hotels
- Future projections of bookings
- Hotel-wise occupancy status (number of vacant/occupied rooms) for future planning

Steps to be followed...

- Plan your stay well in advance-at least 15 days before start of stay
- Checking the Reservation Status: Visit HPTDC website at <http://hptdc.nic.in> and click on **R-Hotel Reservation** icon. Select the hotel in which accommodation is desired and choose the proposed date of stay. A screen showing the type of accommodation available, tariff and the number of units available for reservation will be shown against next 15 dates.
- Sending a Reservation Request: In case accommodation is available for the desired period, press the "Email Reservation Request button". Fill in the required fields and submit.
- Checking whether accommodation is blocked: After 24 hours of sending the reservation request, select the hotel with desired date and press the "Know Your Customer ID" button You will be shown a list of customers in whose name accommodation has been blocked for that particular hotel and date. Note down your customer ID.
- Making payment: After noting down the Customer ID, send payment either by post as Demand Draft or into HPTDC account in any UTI bank branch in India.

- Confirmation check: Depending upon the mode of payment chosen, after sometime, you may check again the "Know Your Customer ID" option and verify that status of accommodation has been changed to "Confirmed" from "Blocked".



Printing Customer Slip: Choose "Customer Slip" option and enter your Customer ID. Take a print-out of the customer slip for future reference and to present in the Hotel at the time of check-in.



Implementation Status

The software is in use since September 2000 by the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (HPTDC) and an advance amount of Rs. 4 crores (approx) has been collected through this interface. The HPTDC has 57 Hotels situated at prime locations in Himachal Pradesh and has 7 Reservation offices

The reservations are also done directly by the Hotels at Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala and Dalhousie. The system has received appreciation from different quarters and the UTI Bank website provides a link to this system under its shopping section at http://www.utibank.com/shopping/frm_shopping.html

For further information, please contact :
State Informatics Officer
National Informatics Centre
Himachal Pradesh State Unit,
HP Secretariat, Shimla-171002 (HP)
Phone: 0177-224045
Email: sio@hp.nic.in

NIC WEBCASTS "Pravasi Bhartiya Divas"

Anil Rathore, NIC HQ

The Indian Diaspora is 20 million strong and spread across 110 countries and 5 continents. In September 2000, the Ministry of External Affairs appointed a High Level Committee to study the Indian Diaspora and to recommend measures for forging a constructive relationship between India and its Diaspora. In its Report, submitted to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Committee recommended that 'Pravasi Bhartiya Divas' should be observed on the 9th day of January every year in recognition and appreciation of the constructive economic, political and philanthropic role played by the Indian Diaspora. The date was chosen because it was on this day that Mahatma Gandhi, himself a Pravasi Bhartiya in South Africa for almost two decades, finally returned to India to lead the Country's freedom struggle.

The First Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated during 9th to 11th Jan' 2003 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi and inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister. The aim of the event was to interact with all NRIs/PIOs to understand their sentiments about India, their expectations from India, and to propose a policy framework for creating a more conducive environment for their sustained and productive interaction with India and her people.

The co-organisers of the event were FICCI and Ministry of External Affairs (NRI Division). National Informatics Centre was approached to webcast the event live for millions of interested audience across the globe. The event was attended by high level dignitaries and went on for three days with parallel running sessions, events, press briefings and entertainment programmes. Some of the key speakers included the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Union Ministers for Finance, External Affairs, Communications & IT, HRD, I&B, Health, Tourism etc along with Chief Ministers of various States.

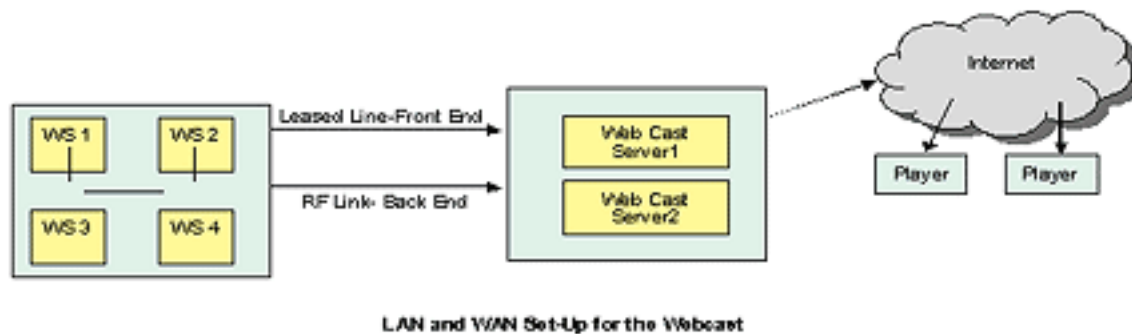
• Webcast Support

With the experience of successfully webcasting important international events such as UNFCCC's COP-8 (for details, refer Informatics January'2003 issue) under its belt, NIC is being regularly

approached for providing support of live/on-demand webcast of the events organized by the Government. The organizers of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas also approached NIC for providing the complete webcast support for the entire 3 days event. A webcast support team of 15 officers from NIC was delegated the task and a Web cast control room was setup on first floor of Hall no. 11 at Pragati Maidan.

All the plenary sessions were broadcasted live on the internet including inaugural and special sessions. Other parallel sessions were also streamed to provide an on-demand webcast facility.

■ Network Setup



LAN : Local network of 100 Mbps was setup with 6 nodes which included four streaming workstations and two other client machines for testing and network control.

WAN : The webcast control room at Pragati Maidan was connected with NIC Data Centre via 4 Mbps RF connection and 2x2 Mbps Leased line. The leased line was used as front end and RF connection was used as back end to provide the fail-safe network between webcast control room and NIC Headquarters.

■ Streaming from Live Source

A video agency was providing the live coverage of sessions through their video cameras. All the media streaming workstations were connected with live audio/video source. These workstations were receiving the audio/video signals through Osprey 210 cards. Helix producer was used to stream the audio/video and webcast the live event to Helix streaming server located at NIC data center.



NIC Team involved in the Webcast of the event

A website (<http://indiadaylive.nic.in>) was developed for live webcast of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas providing links for the Live and On-demand streams . This website was dynamic database oriented and controlled by in house developed Activex control.

The entire exercise of providing webcast facility was highly appreciated by the audience and the dignitaries who applauded NIC's efforts in making the event a big success.

For further information on NIC's Webcast Services, please visit <http://webservices.nic.in>

COMPUTERIZATION OF Department of Explosives

P. V. Kamat & Application Group II, NIC, Pune

The Department of Explosives(DoEX) with its Head Office at Nagpur completed its hundred years on 9th September 1998. The department has come a long way in achieving necessary expertise in consonance with industrial growth of the country. The department is committed towards enforcement of safety to safeguard and protect life and property and issues 26 various types of licenses under Explosives Act, 1884, Petroleum Act, 1934 through its 24 offices spread across the country.

As a part of its endeavor to effectively implement Information Technology in all areas of Government functioning and provide better service to the public at large, in Oct 2000, DoEX started the ambitious project of computerization of all 24 offices spread in the country with the help of NIC, Pune. The entire project estimated at Rs. 8 crores and executed in 3 phases.

• Computerisation in Phases

The First phase of computerization started in Nov 2000, covering computer infrastructure for Head offices and 5 circle offices, development of 17 application modules for Head office. This phase was completed successfully by Feb 2002. The second phase, which started in March 2002, covered the additional computer infrastructure for Head office and 5 circle offices, computer infrastructure for sub-circle offices and development of 10 modules for circle & sub-circle offices and hosting of Web site under citizen charter. This phase was completed in Oct 2002. The currently ongoing third phase proposed to develop 10 more applications for circle and sub-circle offices.

• Infrastructure

The architecture of the project is based on Intranet/Internet technology with all application modules developed under Web environment. All applications and databases are centralized at Nagpur. For executing the project, one Internet Server, one E-mail server, two application servers and four database servers are installed at Head office of DoEX. All applications are developed using ASP, Java Script & VB Script. The development teams for development of application modules are located at Pune, Navi Mumbai & Nagpur. The overall project coordination is with NIC, Pune.

• Application Areas

The overall functioning of the department is classified as per the Acts & Rules of DoEX. The various rule based functional areas include Explosive Rules, Petroleum Rules, SMPV Rules, GCR Rules , General Applications etc.



• Website

A Web site based on the data bank of the license holders has been developed and hosted on Internet. The status of the licensee's application will also be hosted on this web site.

Visit <http://explosives.nic.in> for more information on the Department's activities.

For further information, please write to NIC, Pune

Email : bobde@mah.nic.in

eNRICH – the Community Browser

D.C Misra, NIC HQ

eNRICH is a generic and yet easily customizable browser that acts as a gateway for a community to the world of knowledge, communication and empowerment. It enables communities to quickly and efficiently build **their own** gateway, enriched with **their own** local content, connected to knowledge sources and services that are tailored according to **their own** information and communication needs, available in **their own** local language in a format and medium that is tuned to their assimilation capacities.

The Software has been developed as a joint initiative of UNESCO and NIC. Enrich attempts to tone down the challenges such as lack of suitable skill set, language barriers and low literacy that are faced by disadvantaged communities in using ICTs and the Internet:

- Through a simple, consistent and easy-to-use interface that requires a low level of competence from users
- Through local language support
- Through accessibility to the use of multiple media (textual, audio, video)

The salient features of the software include :

- A ready-to-use, single-point gateway that can be tailored at will to suit the evolving information and communication needs of the community as the enriched community grows
- Post content and messages in multiple media (textual, audio and video)
- Build their own content
- Voice their opinion on issues of relevance to them
- Communicate with their near and dear ones through e-mail, instant messenger and chat services of their choice.



Enrich achieves all this through its two interfaces:

- **Community Browser Interface** used by community members to
 - Access various knowledge resources and services available locally and on the Internet (if the site is connected to Internet)
 - Upload locally relevant messages and content
 - Interact amongst themselves and with the world beyond
- **Desk Manager Interface** used by Enrich Manager and researchers to
 - Configure the site
 - Moderate and administer its contents
 - Analyze community's information and communication needs and preferences

For further information, visit <http://enrich.nic.in> or write to enrich@hub.nic.in

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

Districts of India

<http://districts.nic.in>

From Janmejy Thakur, NIC HQ

India is one of the oldest civilizations with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich heritage. There are 597 districts in the Country divided into 28 States and 7 Union Territories. Districts of India portal, developed by the Web Services & Multimedia Applications division of NIC is an endeavour to provide a one stop source for all the information about the Indian Districts. The aesthetically designed portal not only provides a link to the websites of various districts but also gives a quick link to the important online citizen services provided on these websites in a special section. The portal operates on a participatory model soliciting citizens' direct involvement as it allows users to send requests for inclusion of a particular citizen service available on a district website. A comprehensive search facility is also available for the visitors. The portal also offers an overall glimpse of the number of websites developed on an all India basis categorized by the State/UT. With the introduction of new technologies, a transformation of the text based portal into a map based interface is on the cards.



Doda District, J&K

<http://doda.nic.in>

From Jit Raj, J&K Correspondent

Though the picturesque district of Doda in Jammu & Kashmir launched its website way back in 1999, the information on the site was static in nature. Realising the need to keep up with the times, the district website was recently revised as a joint initiative by the District Administration and NIC Doda. The revised content includes Village Amenity Directory giving detailed information about every village of Doda, Block & Panchayats at a glance, Details of Panchayat Election especially details of elected candidates etc. Efforts have been made to make electronic public

services available by providing links to the various other public utility websites.

Lucknow Municipal Corporation

<http://lmc.up.nic.in>

From Vinod Taneja, UP Correspondent

This website in hindi provides a rich resource & reference material in the form of Lucknow Municipal Corporation's history, organisational structure, various application forms, Guidelines, Rules & Regulations, Civic Charter, Self-Assessment rates & calculation procedures etc. The salient feature of the website is a dynamic online query facility for Lucknow's citizen to know the House Tax outstanding against an individual, anytime, anywhere. The site was inaugurated by Sh. Lalji Tandon, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Government of U.P



Angul District, Orissa

<http://angul.nic.in>

From S.K. Chatterjee, DIO Angul

The official Website of Angul District <http://angul.nic.in> was inaugurated by Mr. N.B.Dhal, IAS, Collector & DM, Angul recently. The Website gives detailed information about demography, history, culture, administration, police, industry, agriculture, education, banking, tourism, healthcare, forest, transport & communication, sports, freedom fighters, people's representative, press, photo gallery, messages from eminent persons etc. Facility has also been provided to send complaints on any subject to Collector, Angul through e-mail. In his inaugural address, Collector appreciated the efforts made by NIC Angul District Unit for designing and developing this Website for District Administration.

CIFNET, Kochi

<http://cifnet.nic.in>

From Julie Zachariah, NITPU Cochin

The Central Institute of Fisheries, Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), was established in 1963 by GOI at Kochi to meet the trained manpower needs of ocean going fishing vessels and that of fishing industry. The fishing vessels are becoming sophisticated day by day. Therefore, training of the fishermen plays a vital role in educating and upgrading the knowledge to instill self-confidence among them for handling any situation. The main modules incorporated in the Web Site are about the History, Profile, Facilities provided, and contributions of CIFNET. Information is provided about the various Training Programmes being conducted - Regular Courses, Special Training Programmes such as Ancillary Courses, Statutory Courses, Courses for other organizations, Courses for college lecturers, students, foreign nationals etc. The Site also provides information regarding the Post-Institutional Training Programmes, Calendar of Training Programmes, and the various Publications of CIFNET. Shri. M. P. John, Surveyor In Charge, Mercantile Marine Dept. inaugurated the CIFNET Web Site, designed by NITPU, Cochin in the presence of Dr. K. P. Philip, Zonal Director, Fishery Survey of India, on 27 February 2003.

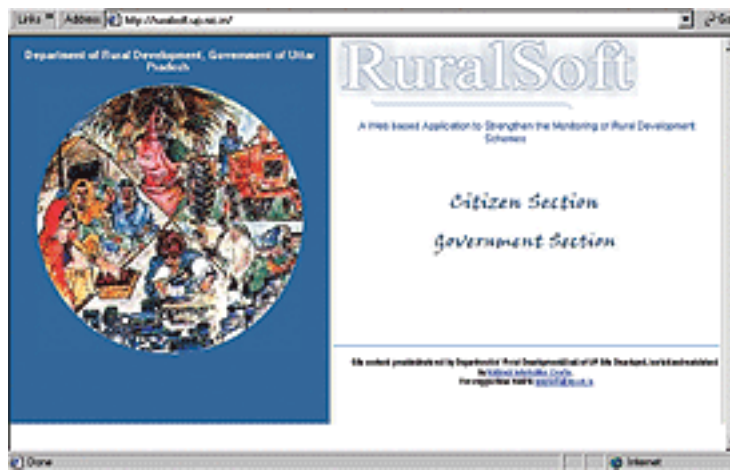


Rural Development Schemes in UP

<http://ruralsoft.up.nic.in>

From Vinod Taneja, UP Correspondent

NIC UP State Unit, Lucknow has developed and hosted a website for web-based monitoring of rural development schemes being run by the Rural Development Department of Government of U.P. Developed at a short notice with ASP in the front and MS-SQL at the back-end, the website got implemented immediately and is being personally monitored on the Internet by the Commissioner, Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh. This exclusive website has been designed to provide interactive and dynamic access to the latest status of all rural development schemes running in the state. As per the current requirements, the officials of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) directly input their respective district's most recent data onto the website. Dynamically, the data gets reflected in many types of Internet based reports, broadly classified as belonging to the citizen section and Government section respectively. These reports are being extensively used by a wide cross-section of users – citizens, public representatives and officers at the district, state & national level.



Kendriya Vidyalay, Nagaon

<http://kvnagaon.nic.in>

From Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

The Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nagaon website, designed and developed by NIC Nagaon District Unit in Assam was recently launched on the Internet. The site, considered to be the first among all the Kendriya Vidyalayas of the Country, provides useful information regarding admissions, fee structure, facilities offered by the school etc for the students as well as general public.

Bilaspur District, HP

<http://hpbilaspur.nic.in>

From Ajay Chahal, HP Correspondent

The Bilaspur distt of Himachal Pradesh recently went online with the launch of its website by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of HP. The website, developed by NIC Bilaspur District Centre provides important information relating to historical and religious places, geographical conditions, fairs, festivals, administration, bus routes, time tables, development and welfare schemes etc. A section of the site has been exclusively dedicated to the freedom fighters and martyrs belonging to the district.

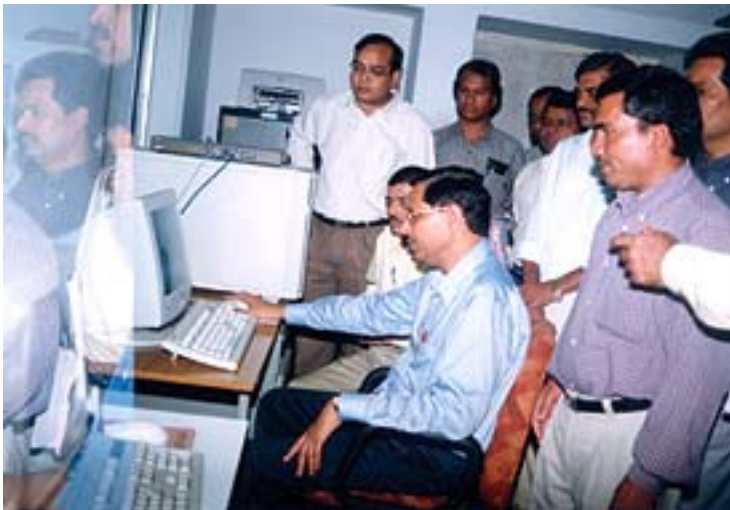


Collectorate Gadchiroli, Maharashtra

<http://district.mah.nic.in/gadchiroli>

From S.R.Tembhurne, DIO Gadchiroli

The remote district of Gadchiroli is also known as the Tribal District of Maharashtra. The website of the district, developed by NIC District Unit was recently inaugurated by Dr. Shailesh K Sharma, Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur Division. The website projects useful information related to District Profile, administrative set-up, infrastructural development , demographic data, important statistics etc.



Central Excise, Delhi

<http://centralexcisedelhi.nic.in>

From Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

The office of the Chief Commissioner of Excise in Delhi comprises of six commissionerates in Delhi and Haryana looking after their respective zones. The website of the office was recently launched on NIC's webserver and provides in-depth information about the various Acts, Rules, Notifications, Circulars etc pertaining to the Central Excise. Relevant links have been provided to

the important sections of the website of Central Board of Excise and Customs (<http://cbec.gov.in>).

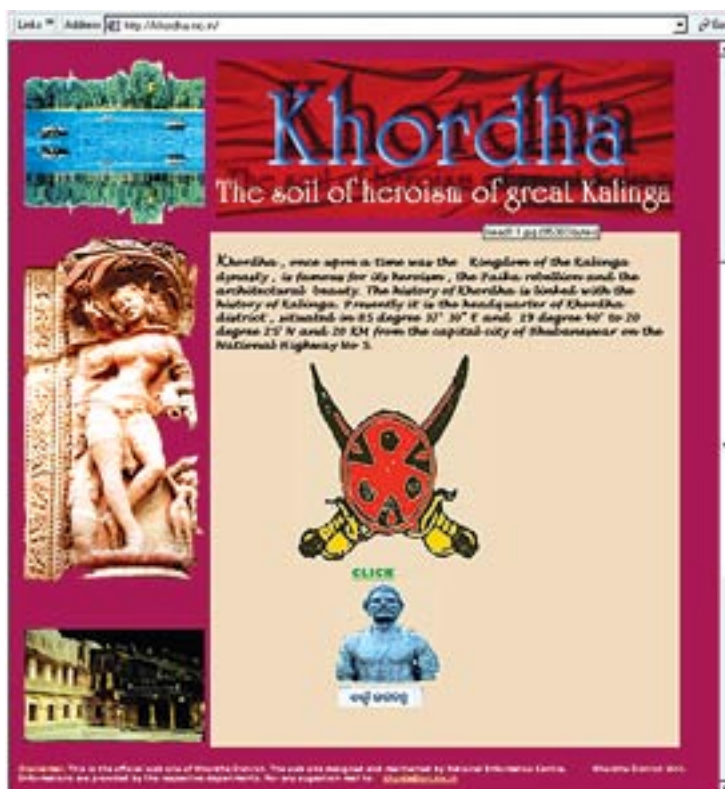


Khordha Distt, Orissa

<http://khordha.nic.in>

From Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

Khordha, once the seat of famous Kalinga Dynasty is now an important District in the State of Orissa. The District recently established a web presence through the launch of its website. The site, developed by the NIC District Unit gives a complete over-view of the District and covers detailed information on almost all aspects, ranging from history and tourism to culture and information technology. Useful links are provided to the various citizen services of the Government. A highlighting feature of the website is a photo gallery depicting the historical heritage and natural beauty of the District.





Informatics NewsOnline

Informatics is now eleven years old. The publication was revised two years back with an increase in the number of pages and enhanced focus on the e-governance related ICT activities being carried out in various parts of the Country. The revised lay out and enhanced coverage of the bulletin has been well appreciated by the readers.

The two news sections of Informatics viz. 'Cyber Governance' and 'Happenings' comprise of assortment of news items related to e-governance projects, workshops, seminars, training programmes, new websites, portals etc. Since Informatics gets published quarterly, sometimes the news items gets published so late that they lose their value.

In the age of Internet, it will not be fair on our part, if we do not make use of this dynamic medium of communication to facilitate instant access to news by our readers so that it serves its due purpose. Hence, we have launched an online extension of Informatics to carry the latest news from our centers all over the country.

'Informatics - News Online' shall be a part of the existing website of Informatics (<http://informatics.nic.in>) and shall initially have two news sections (Cyber Governance and Happenings). All Correspondents of the Informatics shall be provided with the authorization and facility to directly upload e-governance news of their region on the website. Every fortnight, a summary of the latest news submitted to the website shall be compiled and sent through email to all the readers who would subscribe to the service.

I look forward to your kind co-operation & suggestions to make this venture a success.

Neeta Verma

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

From the Editor's Desk

The whole world is going through a tumultuous phase with the descent of the war clouds on Iraq. The war is expected to not only hit the oil prices hard and adversely affect almost all sectors of the world economy, but also bring the differences and conflicts in the political ideologies of various Countries out in the open. However, the fact remains that whatever may the future entail for the global politics and economy, a war would always remain as the greatest curse inflicted on humanity and we can only hope that peace prevails soon.

This issue of Informatics brings to you, an assortment of stories and news about the way e-governance is marching ahead in our Country. One of our special features is on the Training Services being provided by NIC, in its mission to become an active catalyst and a facilitator in spreading ICT awareness and proficiency in Government at the National, State and District Level.

Keep writing to us and let us know your feedback on our coverage.....

Sonal Kalra

From You to Us

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

email at

sonal@hub.nic.in

or by post at the following address :

Room No. 379, 3rd Floor, NIC Headquarters, A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, N.Delhi
110003

• **Dear Editor,**

It is indeed a great pleasure receiving Informatics, the E-Governance bulletin of NIC on a regular basis and going through its useful content. I feel that the bulletin is a good communication tool and the information would definitely be of great interest to us.

H.E Mr. John Daniel

Ambassador

Embassy of Lebanon, New Delhi

• **Madam,**

INFORMATICS as an "e-Governance Bulletin brought out by National Informatics Centre" could certainly establish a niche for itself, not just within the country but worldwide as well. For this to happen, the newsletter's scope needs to be widened, extending it out of the closed-user group within NIC to a much wider readership in the academic world, libraries, membership of professional bodies, I.T. vendors etc. As a natural adjunct, the corresponding website <http://informatics.nic.in> providing online content, could further encourage active participation through discussion forums and mailing lists. Eminent & experienced professionals from the field of I.T. & management may be invited to carry out regular columns. e-Governance applications & products of other I.T. organizations/vendors, both in India and abroad may also be critically reviewed. Apart from sharing & exchanging much-varied domain knowledge garnered by NIC and others over the years, the proposed move could potentially reach out effectively to all those interested in e-Governance applications. NIC's professionals too stand a chance to Look at their own hard efforts, strengths and weaknesses vis-à-vis the outside world.

Vinod K. Taneja

NIC UP State Unit, Lucknow

■ **Dear Editor,**

As a regular reader of Informatics, I feel proud to be a member of the Informatics family. The bulletin is extremely useful to the IT professionals. I would especially like to appreciate the section on "Technology Update" which keeps us abreast of the latest technologies and helps us to keep pace with the advancements. I hope the bulletin achieves new heights with increased content in the future.

Saroj K. Patnaik
NIC Headquarters

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