

Informatics

AN  GOVERNANCE BULLETIN FROM NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE



SPECIAL FEATURE

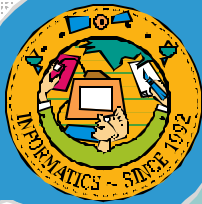
STATE IN FOCUS

DISTRICT INFORMATICS

E-GOVERNANCE PRODUCTS & SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

- Geographical Information System (GIS)
- Delhi
- Jalandhar (Punjab)
- Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu)
- ICT at LBSNAA, Mussoorie
- ICT Cooperation with Govt of Lao PDR
- New ICT Projects at Himachal Pradesh
- Ubiquitous Computing



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The year 2004 left behind a trail of death and destruction in its last few days. The Tsunami tidal waves triggered off by a killer earthquake across 12 nations in South East Asia left thousands dead and millions homeless. The devastation has been massive in some of the southern parts of India, especially in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Let us all pause for a moment and think of the innocent lives lost, and then go on to contribute as much as we can, to the relief efforts. The tragedy goes on to show that despite all the technological advancements in the world, we humans are so helpless before nature's fury.

The lead story in this issue of Informatics aptly focuses on Geographical Information Systems and reviews how spatial information and GIS technology can contribute as a decision support system for the ICT services to facilitate E-governance. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on the articles published by us.

Best Wishes for a Peaceful and Happy New Year to all our readers from the entire team of Informatics....

Sonal Kalra

Readers Write

Dear Editor,

I would like to compliment *Informatics* for including Uttaranchal as the State in Focus in its October issue. In a mountain state like Uttaranchal, the NIC transmission system, especially Videoconferencing network has proved to be a major technical intervention for good Governance. Many departments are using ICT to improve their work performance and Uttaranchal today can claim to be one of the pioneer states in the use of ICT. I extend my heartfelt thanks to NIC and its staff.

Dr. RS Tolia
Chief Secretary
Govt of Uttaranchal

Dear Editor,

I am a regular reader of *Informatics*. I would like to compliment you for the special issue covering Uttaranchal as the State in focus.

With best wishes,

Sanjeev Chopra
Secretary, Industrial Development
Govt of Uttaranchal

Dear Editor,

State Unit Centre of NIC Uttaranchal provides me with *Informatics* bulletin regularly. I find it quite informative. The October 2004 issue gives details of programmes, where Uttaranchal is using Information Technology. I would like it, if some future edition of *Informatics* gives statewide IT activities in a nutshell. It may be a special bulletin.

LN Pant
Joint Secretary
Uttaranchal Vidhan Sabha

Dear Editor,

I am a regular reader of *Informatics*. Being an NICian, I strongly feel that there should be a new column of 'Tips & Tricks' or 'Your Problem-Our Solution'. In the NIC District Centre, we sometimes face peculiar problems with the hardware as well as software. Such problems can be discussed in these columns.

Gaurav Tyagi
DIO, NIC Muzaffarnagar

Editor replies: We appreciate the suggestions given by our esteemed readers and it shall be considered for future issues.

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सत्यमेव जयते

Dayanidhi Maran



Union Minister

Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
Government of India

Message

Use of ICT in the process of Governance has become a global phenomenon and the Government of India has rightly accorded high priority to the Communications and Information Technology sector. There is a constant need for concerted efforts to create awareness about the initiatives of the Government to strategically deploy technology with a view to benefit common man. India is well on its way to emerge as a global ICT superpower and organizations like NIC have been contributing immensely in this direction. It is hoped that the good work being done now gets the acclaim it deserves and brings the e-government initiatives to the forefront.

I am confident that endeavours like *Informatics* shall continue to be useful in disseminating information and create the much-needed awareness. I congratulate the National Informatics Centre for their effort and wish them continued success to all their endeavours in future.

(Dayanidhi Maran)

Happy New Year
2005



▶ Dr. Vandana Sharma, NIC HQ

Geographical Information System (GIS): Bridging the Information Gap

Competitiveness, due to globalization has caused remarkable changes in the planning approach for developmental processes at every level. Convergence of various technologies has become the need of the hour. Geographical Information System (GIS), which basically handles spatial data in the form of maps, pictures, Global Positioning System (GPS) and integrates them with non-spatial data, is one such technology that finds application in every area without exception. GIS is potentially a technology bridging the gap between MIS and ground reality.

Remote Sensing and GIS division of NIC has come a long way since its inception as a division in 1996, with its constructive, visionary and sustained effort to provide GIS technology, a place of prominence in day to day governance.

Spatial Information

The spatial information originates from geographical representations such as maps and pictures taken from satellites or aerial photography. With rich tradition of mapping, a large number of maps today exist with different organizations across the country at various scales right up to specific cadastral survey number. The practice of using these maps, however, follows traditional methods. A major constraint with analog form of maps arises from its rigid format which prohibits the use of data in different ways. Also, overlay of maps is either not feasible or is a complicated process.

There is also enormous wealth of spatial information in the country through pictures taken from aerial and satellite based platforms. A number of satellites spanning around the globe provide spatial digital data for various needs such as

meteorology, land resources etc with very high resolution imageries providing minute details of the terrain. Utilization of such data requires geo referencing of images through maps developed with accurate geographical control points. The spatial data development, hence, has to consider use of maps generated by survey procedures and update of the same using emerging technologies.

Advent of digitization of maps has revolutionized the cartographic representations. Here, the main advantage lies in the flexibility of representation, with layers of map, a capability that allows interactive experimentation, editing and overlays. The emphasis from map making in recent years has shifted to spatial digital database derived from precise navigation, imaging satellites, aircraft and transactional database. As technology incorporates ease of data manipulation and resolves complexities, GIS has been making tremendous impact in business.

Major Issues

Increased demand of spatial data has raised many issues. Some of them are as under:

- ☞ | Development of data through digitization must consider accurate base maps, quality assurance models, quality standards and completeness with compliance.
- ☞ | A seamless multilayered spatial database at the national level can only be developed through partnership.
- ☞ | A systematic approach is required with increasing volume of data for higher spatial, spectral and temporal resolutions.
- ☞ | Implementation of GIS at the national level needs to consider issues that

include Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), ownership rights, disclosure agreements, legal and security issues.

Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)

The use of spatial data with GIS technology is a challenge because of a number of associated issues. This has evolved the concept of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) which is comparatively a recent phenomenon. An SDI is a type of information community that can be defined by its members (providers, experts, practitioners/users), their capabilities (services, information resources), a shared vocabulary (semantics), shared conventions (endorsed standards and specifications) and communication facilities that promotes interaction (portals, catalogues, meta-data). The development of enterprise architecture to encompass organizational processes (for example, functions and data in support of planning and decision-making requirements for holistic development of the country in mission mode) is a useful methodology to build rationale and opportunities for interaction between organizations to apply geospatial data and services.

Global Scenario

'Worldwide Geographic Network' is a rapidly emerging reality. Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) and Global Information Infrastructure (GII) are proposed to be carrying all types of information, spatial or non-spatial, voice or video. The Open GIS model envisages to synchronize Geo processing technology with the emerging information technology standards, based on open systems, distributed processing and component ware frameworks to facilitate interoperability through common specifications over Internet/Intranet. The 'Pluggable Computing Model' provides conceptual framework that positions the Open GIS specifications in the broad context of Information Technology.



National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)

There is sufficient emphasis on development of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in India. Initiatives taken up by the Government of India reflect the greater role of spatial or geographic information using GIS technology and associated services in emerging ICT technology trends. NSDI envisages the convergence of various spatial information sciences and technologies, using information systems, networks around common spatial data exchange standard, linking all data sources and producers, users and planners. The National Map Policy, to this effect, is shaping up steadily to meet the demands on effective use of spatial data.

Role of NIC in NSDI

NSDI framework conceptualized at Department of Science & Technology (DST) envisages the participation of spatial data users and producer organizations like Department of Space (DOS), Survey of India (SOI), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Forest Survey of India (FSI), National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), and so on. However, it is important to realize that for countrywide preparation of GIS maps, NIC's role becomes critical on account of its presence in around 600 districts in India. NIC is also recognized as one of the ten organizations to undertake digitization of SOI topomaps vide Govt. of India O.M. dated 13/07/1998. With ICT infrastructure including NICNET and host of operational databases in different sectors, NIC today is best positioned for grass-root delivery of GIS as a decision support system for the services to facilitate E-governance.

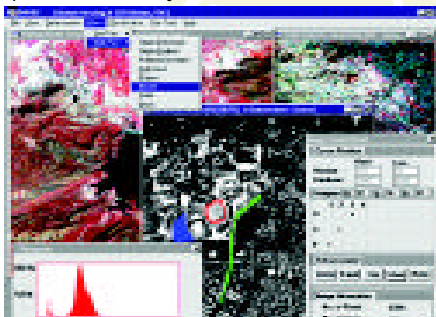
NIC-SDI

Recognizing the benefits of spatial data in bridging the information gap, NIC is sparing no efforts in bringing the concept of SDI to reality. The RS & GIS division at NIC is equipped with the required infrastructure to create and process

spatial information. State-of-the-art software available include ArcInfo, MapInfo, ArcIMS, ArcSDE, AutoDesk MAPGUIDE, SPANS for vector based applications and EASI/PACE PCI Works, ENVI for image processing activities. The services of dedicated servers of advance configuration with multiple processors mounted on Storage Area Network (SAN) are available round the clock on network. The division is also equipped with supercomputing facility *PARAM Padma*.

In-house software development

In-house software development program is supported in parallel for the products such as GISNIC, IPSNIC and GeoNIC, not only to understand the philosophy of new products as they are launched in the



IPSNIC: An in-house software product for Satellite Data Processing

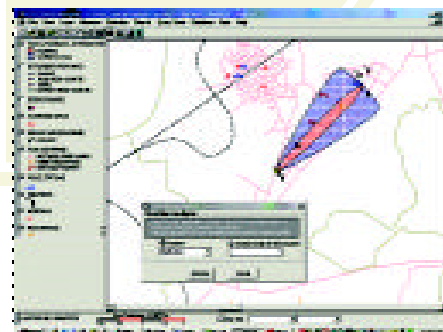
market but also to provide a low cost solution to meet the training needs in various sectors. As the use of GIS started growing in different areas of application, the diversification of the division to incorporate raster GIS processing capabilities was realized. Software development was carried out using Open Source concept with initiatives at NIC Tamil Nadu and Kerala State Units. A desktop solution at district level has been worked out by MP State Unit with the product 'e-Suvidha'.

Raster/vector based GIS solutions:

Combination of spatial and non-spatial databases using GIS techniques helps in improved decision making by providing a view of the geographical distribution of data. Visualization is a new form of

representation which not only gives powerful perception but also has the capability to display volumes of data on a single page. This is seen as a new language which can be understood by all irrespective of language barriers.

A number of GIS based products have been conceptualized by RS & GIS Division in various sectors keeping in view the needs of different user departments, especially in creating thematic maps on various parameters from MIS databases and extracting information through strong query builder. The different map compositions based on MIS data are gaining special attention. GIS applications have been developed in watershed development programs, optimizing routes for high voltage transmission lines, the transportation of materials in and out of an industry, clustering of sugarcane areas based on distance, proximity to road network etc, thereby enhancing the production efficiency of any industry. In its primary stage, GIS is seen as a value addition to MIS. The basic functionalities like tool tip, identification of feature details, Clipping the desired area based on selection, Query data base, Buffer creation, Zoom based labeling etc provide novelty solutions. A nationwide project on '**GIS Based Emergency Planning and Response System, in case of chemical disaster in Major Hazard Industries**' has been recently completed for four states and in progress for rest of the country.



MAH Project - GIS Modeling for Toxic Release Dispersion by Wind

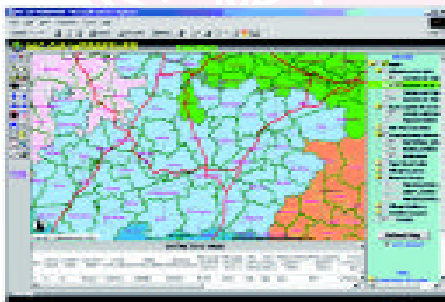
The system has successfully integrated spatial, non-spatial data with complex



chemical modeling interfaced through industry standard products. The product has a direct link to grass root problems as catastrophe caused by chemical leaks in Bhopal in December 1984.

National Spatial Data Base (NSDB)

Creating a national level spatial database is an evolving process. The process is compounded by unavailability of maps of known references. A known reference means a point having known latitude and longitude values. Further, the frequent increase in the number of districts and blocks by political/administrative decision add to the complexity. Anyway, whenever it happens, the data related to it have to be collected.



NSDB -A Pioneering effort towards Creation of National Spatial Database

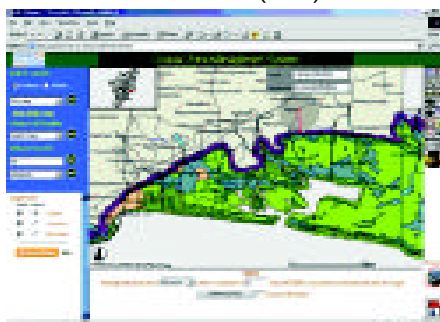
NIC has taken an initiative in this direction jointly with various sectors and has accumulated spatial data. A number of NIC state units that include Maharashtra, Chhatisgarh, Assam, Punjab, Karnataka, Haryana and Goa have extensively contributed in development of data at village levels. National Spatial data base includes a number of themes such as administrative boundaries up to block levels, village locations, rail/road network etc. Natural resource mapping covers layers like soil, rivers, drainage, catchments area, vegetation, forests etc.

Web GIS

Dissemination of GIS data and functionality has traditionally been restricted due to analytical complexity, the size and format of data sets and the

limitations of network bandwidth. Web-based Geographic Information System (Web GIS) is a process designed to present spatial information with a friendly interface and the end user needs only a web browser to query, access, display and analyze GIS dataset. This greatly reduces fragmented and compartmentalized workflow and increases efficiencies. Web services makes GIS cheaper by dramatically altering the cost-benefit ratios of GIS implementation when assessed against user accessibility. Considering the ever-growing demand of dissemination of Spatial Data and security concerns, a state-of-the-art GIS Web Server Infrastructure has been set up at NIC Headquarters, in a secured SAN environment. Recently Web based NSDB application access has been made available to all NICians after approval from the Ministry of Defense. A few point to point GIS web services have been set up in specific sectors as under;

- Web GIS application for Coastal Zone (CZM), Basic Environmental Database (ISBEID) and Project Tiger for Ministry of Environment and Forest
- Schemes monitoring system for DWCD, Ministry of HRD
- Web Based GEO-FARMS for IFFCO
- A GIS Portal for National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).



Web GIS for Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Dedicated efforts and standardization at every step has made it possible today, to access the multiple GIS services at NIC through a common interface. Accessing services through OGC compliant Web

Mapping Services at international level may be feasible shortly.

To conclude, it is important to note that GISism of Governance may provide a common platform where various sources may converge for some time and disperse in their respective domains to be converged again and again for better coordination and planning.

Some of the achievements of the GIS division:

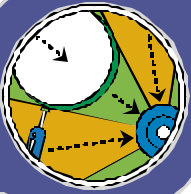
- Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award by ESRI USA at San Diego, USA on 9th August 2004.
- Best Poster Award presented on open GIS by NIC Tamil Nadu State Unit during the GSDI-7 Conference 2004 held at Bangalore .



NIC Stall at GSDI-7 held in Bangalore

- Publication of technical work in IJITM and European Geosciences Union magazines.
- One of the winners in the Best Paper category for 'Emergency and Environmental Planning for MAH Industries in Maharashtra using GIS' at ESRI User Conference, New Delhi in December 2004.
- Participation at GSDI-6 at Budapest, Hungary, Map Asia at Bangkok, Nepal and other international GIS workshops.

For further details, please contact rsgis@nic.in



▶ N Srinivas, Delhi Correspondent

DELHI : Revolutionizing our lives with Technology

Delhi has seen the rise and fall of many empires which have left behind a plethora of monuments that reverberates of grandeur and glory of the bygone ages. A city which traces its history to Mahabharata, the great epic of wars for the city of Indraprastha, is the present day Delhi. New Delhi, the capital of India, sprawled over the west bank of river Yamuna, is one of the fastest growing cities in India. It has been Delhi Government's resolve to harness the great knowledge revolution and the potential of IT for the benefit of the citizens and use IT as a tool to make the lives of people in the city more comfortable.

NIC Delhi State Centre was established in 1987 and is providing all round active support to various Delhi Government establishments in order to fulfill the dream of making Delhi a cyber city as envisaged by Govt. of NCT of Delhi in its IT Policy. The major activities undertaken by NIC DLSC can be categorised as follows:



Hon'ble CM inaugurating the e-Dastavej software

☞ | Infrastructure Support & Network Services:

- NIC-DLSC has actively supported the operationalization of IT Facilities in Delhi Secretariat where a LAN of 700 nodes has been made functional. A wireless RF-link has been installed to provide connectivity between Delhi Secretariat & NIC HQ.

- WAN for Delhi Govt is being established. All the 9 revenue districts and various departments are in the process of being connected to Delhi Secretariat.

- Web access/e-mail facilities have been provided to most of the departments of Govt of NCT of Delhi. About 500 e-mail accounts have been created till date.

☞ | Citizen Services :

NIC Delhi State Centre has implemented the following citizen centric projects:

☞ | **E-Dastavej** (Delhi Online Registration Information System): E-Dastavej system provides for registration of documents of property transactions with various security checks, on-line capturing & storing of photographs of buyers/sellers/witnesses, information of registration fee and maintenance of database & query system. This system has been implemented in 2 districts.

☞ | **E-Praman Patra**: The Deputy Commissioner's Office is the single interacting office with public for the issuance of various kinds of certificates like caste certificate, income certificate, domicile certificate, birth/death certificate, citizenship certificate, handicap certificate, marriage registration certificate etc. The total number of certificates issued yearly is more than 75,000. E-Praman patra system has been implemented in all the 9 revenue districts. The application enables a citizen to apply online for issuance of a certificate and also get the status of application online. One can also check the status of an application through IVRS and SMS from mobile at the following nos.

IVRS : 23392339 / 23392340

SMS : 9868231002

☞ | **Indraprastha Bhulekh** (Delhi Land Records Computerisation): This system involves different sub-systems like Khatauni, mutation, Khasra-Girdavari, online query on land records etc. Data entry of Khatauni has been completed and its authentication is under progress. Khatauni records are hosted on <http://districts.delhigovt.nic.in/Bhulekh>.

☞ | Computerisation in the Administration :

Delhi Secretariat: The following web based applications have been developed & launched in the Secretariat for various application areas (<http://delserv.nic.in>):

☞ | **File Monitoring System**: This application software has been developed & implemented in Delhi Secretariat where all files are received/dispatched through this system only. This system allots a unique file number for all Delhi Govt departments to monitor the movement of all the files.

☞ | **Location Information System (LOCIS)**: This application software has been developed and implemented to keep a track of all the personnel posted in Delhi Secretariat and is being extensively used.

☞ | **Daily Appointment Programme**: This software has been developed and implemented in Delhi Secretariat for entry and monitoring of daily appointments of the officers.



SIO Delhi being honoured by Mr. Arvinder Singh Lovely, Hon'ble Education Minister, Delhi Govt

☞ | **E-Purti** (Store Management Information System): E-Purti, implemented at Delhi Secretariat, provides IT solution for management of stores. All departments are issued items online through this system. The software provides for online submission of demands to store and facility to ensure that bills are passed after items are received and entered in the computer.

Chief Minister's Office: The following applications have been developed & implemented in **Chief Minister's office**:

☞ | **Public Grievances Redressal & Monitoring System**: An online web-based PGRAMS software has been developed & implemented in order to help the public in



solving their problems. The department can monitor the complaints and take action as per the necessity or importance of the complaint and also the status can be seen by the complainant. All the grievances coming to this office through DAK have also been fully computerized.



Sh Prakash Kumar, Secretary, IT, Govt of Delhi with Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG NIC at IITF 2004

☞ | **Bhagidari Software:** Bhagidari is the Citizen-Government Partnership to solve the problems of residents of Delhi. A web-based application has been developed to computerize every activity of the Bhagidari cell. This is used by all the offices of Deputy Commissioners. The data of each citizen and representative of the departments is easily available through this software. Facility to enter and monitor the issues and solutions is provided in the software.

☞ | **E-mail Grievance Monitoring System:** Monitors the grievances received through e-mail to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi.

☞ | **MLAs' Works Monitoring System:** All MLAs are responsible for different types of activities in their respective constituencies. This software has been developed and implemented in Chief Minister's office to monitor the progress of the works initiated by the MLAs in their respective constituencies. In this system, all the entries are being made online which is sent to the concerned department online and the Hon'ble Chief Minister can monitor the progress report of the same.

☞ | **Letter Monitoring System:** In the manual system, it is difficult to keep track of the current status of a letter received. This software has been implemented to make the system IT enabled. It facilitates monitoring of letters and gives transparency to the process of movement of letters.

☞ | **Transport Department:** The following services have been computerised so far: registration of vehicles, road tax collection, issue of permits, enforcement of provision of Motor Vehicles Act & Rules. Vahan software is implemented in all offices of the department. A state database has been created for about 40 lakh vehicles. A website has been created to provide vehicle registration details.

☞ | **Utility Mapping Project:** The objective of this project is to create large scale digital maps of the city with utility network and related data to water, sewage, electricity, gas etc. This project is based on the latest technology such as Global Positioning System (GPS), Photogrammetry and Geographic Information System (GIS) and being implemented in India for the first time. Using the photogrammetric technique, aerial photographs in pairs (consecutive) were used to form a 3D model. The whole area of 1485 sq. km of Delhi was covered on the scale of 1:1250. Under mapping of utilities, field survey of water lines, verification and data entry has been completed. A computer cell has been created at Delhi Jal Board HQ 'Varunalaya'.

☞ | **e-Yojana (Monitoring System for Plan Expenditure):** The Planning department of Govt of NCT of Delhi is the nodal department, which monitors the expenditure incurred on various plan schemes approved by the Govt. The department coordinates with about 90 other departments of Govt of NCT of Delhi for monitoring the expenditure. Web based application system e-YOJANA has automated all the information required by the department to effectively monitor the plan expenditure of Govt of NCT of Delhi. The system provides facility to all departments to enter the data online. Available over the intranet at Delhi Secretariat & NICNET and can be accessed at <http://delserv.nic.in>

☞ | **e-Sahkarita:** e-Sahkarita aims to improve interface with the people and bring transparency in the working of office of Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. This department registers various kinds of cooperative societies. The system has been integrated with the department's website to incorporate details of society, membership details, financial information of

banks, liquidation proceedings, administrator, audit, inspection/enquiry, arbitration cases & court cases. (<http://rcs.delhigovt.nic.in>)

☞ | **e-COURTIS:** This web-based application system helps the Law & Judicial department to monitor all court cases being handled by various departments of Delhi Government. All departments can enter/update their cases and is available over intranet/internet. The system is available at <http://delserv.nic.in>

☞ | **District Courts:** A LAN with 591 nodes has been established at district courts. A web-based software provides facility for filing cases, recording daily proceeding of cases, preparation of Cause List, copies of orders/judgements and details of pending cases.

☞ | **Pay & Accounts Office:** The Controller of Accounts of Delhi Govt has decided to implement NIC developed PAO-2000 in its offices. This software has already been implemented in 8 locations.



LG Sh. BL Joshi & Chief Secretary Sh. S. Regunathan at IITF 2004

☞ | **Payroll Information System:** This application system has been developed & implemented in the offices of Deputy Commissioner, Lt. Governor, Planning Department, Delhi Jal Board and Industry Department.

☞ | **Tihar Prisons:** Prison Management System is a centralised database and has salient features such as recording & tracking of prisoners' movements, monitoring of action taken by courts on a case, provision to store the identity of officers culling the information for a prisoner, preparation of administrative & statistical reports.

☞ | **LAMS (Land Acquisition Management System):** This application system has been developed for Land & Building department. It



computerises the land acquisition process of record keeping pertaining to acquisition, notification, schemes, owners, compensation amount, court cases, possession etc. (<http://delserv.nic.in>)

Prevention of Food Adulteration

Department: The process of controlling food adulteration by PFA department has been computerised. A module has been implemented which incorporates lodging of complaints by citizens regarding adulterated food samples, submission of online report by food inspectors, submission of online Public Analyst reports etc.

Industry Department: NIC DLSC has computerized the Firms & Society branch, Loan Branch & Land & Property Record branch of the Industry Department.

Social Welfare Department: 10 Financial Assistance schemes of Delhi Govt have been computerised in central district and would be replicated in other 8 District Offices. (<http://socialwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in>). A web based system has been developed to keep the details of all missing children in the custody of the department. (<http://delhigovt.nic.in/missingchild>).

Finance Department: The Budget section of this department is under computerisation.

Web Services: NIC DLSC has supported the preparation & hosting of websites of over 70 departments of Government of NCT of Delhi.

Pulse Polio Immunization Programme:

NIC DLSC has actively supported Delhi Government in providing technical support for this programme for which, an application software has been developed & implemented which manages the postings of about 15000 doctors under this programme.

All India Educational Survey: NIC DLSC has supported the Education Department in completing the computerisation of 6th All India Educational Survey conducted by NCERT. Presently, the 7th AISES project is under implementation.

Vidhan Sabha: Infrastructure for ICT facilities was created for computerisation. Software for Question & Answer session of

Vidhan Sabha has been implemented. Moreover, training to the officials of Vidhan Sabha is given for daily usage of computers.

Districts Computerisation: NIC DLSC has been actively involved in computerization of all the districts of Delhi which have been made functional with LAN. Some of the applications computerized apart from E-Praman Patra, E-Dastavej & Indraprasth Bhulekh are :

- Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana
- Marriage Registration Information System
- MIS on Parliament Questions
- Recovery Information System
- Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana
- Industrial Polluting Units Information System

Sales Tax: The process of registration, filing and processing return, details of taxes deposited, issue and receipt of forms, etc. have been fully computerized. Registered dealers can view their tax, statutory form and other dealers' particulars through department's web site. Public and taxpayers can file their grievances at <http://www.delhisalestax.com>

Excise Department: EMIS application software containing 14 modules is operational. Printing of transport permit at the excise bond of L-1 licensees Tax collection is directly updated on department's server from 30 branches of SBI. Fresh/Renewal of various licenses can be carried out through this single window software. The website is hosted at <http://excise.delhigovt.nic.in>

Education Department: A web based online system has been developed for monitoring the budget for all schools, sanctions for salary and other expenditure bills, speedy disposal of GPF and other advances/ withdrawals. Through this system, DDEs and principals can view expenditure of allotted amount. All the appointments, transfer, posting and relieving of the employees is being done through this module. (<http://edudel.nic.in>).

Tender Notice Information System: Web based tender notice information system has facilitated the publication of all tender notices of Delhi Govt on the web. The system provides free email notification to

those who have registered themselves. The system has been designed to accept details of contracts to enable the citizens to see the details of projects, a step towards putting information in public domain as the 'Right to Information'. The system can also be used for expenditure analysis of the government for better and efficient procurement. More than 28,800 tender notices have been published as on date.

Procurement Monitoring System:

Government of Delhi procures all hardware and packaged software from NICSI. To streamline the entire procurement process, a web based application has been developed. All departments have to enter the details of ordered equipments in the system to print the system generated purchase order. One can see the status of supply/orders online. (<http://delhigovt.nic.in/procurement>)

Awards To NIC Implemented Projects :

India International Trade Fair 2004 held in Delhi from November 14th-27th had emphasis on themes of Agriculture and Information Technology. Delhi Pavillion in IITF exhibited



DC-Southwest, SIO & team with Golden & Bronze Icon Awards

all the IT Applications successfully implemented in Delhi by NIC Delhi State Centre. The following NIC developed e-governance projects were rated amongst the top three by an independent jury:

Golden Icon Award:

e-Dastavej (Delhi Online Registration System)

Bronze Icon Award:

File Monitoring System

For further details, please mail to nsrini@nic.in



► Vikram Jeet Grover, Punjab Correspondent

Jalandhar : Scaling New Heights



According to the legend, district Jalandhar is said to have derived its name from the vernacular term 'Jalandhar' meaning 'area inside water', i.e. tract lying between the two rivers Satluj and Beas. Jalandhar is located on the intensively irrigated plain between the Beas and Sutlej rivers. The city is a market for agricultural products. Manufactured products include textiles, leather goods, wood products, and sporting goods. Jalandhar was the capital of Punjab since India's independence until Chandigarh was built in 1953.

☞ | **NIC's Journey:** Ever since its inception in 1988, the NIC Jalandhar District Centre has made its presence felt by making tremendous strides towards empowering the District Administration with IT tools, training Government officials. Implementation of e-governance programmes has further strengthened the role of NIC in the district.

Some of the projects executed by NIC Jalandhar have been discussed below:

☞ | **Video Conferencing Facility:** Video Conferencing (VC) facility was installed for District Administration, Jalandhar on September 30, 2004.

☞ | **DOEACC CCC-CAPEX Examination:** NIC Jalandhar was among the districts to conduct first All India online examination for DOEACC's CCC (CAPEX).

☞ | **District Website:** The official website of Jalandhar District, developed by NIC district centre with the support of NIC Punjab State Centre, gives complete information about the district, administration, maps, public utility contact

numbers, public utility forms such as birth/death certificate, driving license etc. It also gives information on elections results, information on educational institutions, hotels, banks, media etc. The site can be viewed at <http://jalandhar.nic.in>

☞ | **Networking Plan:** The district centre network is interoperable and capable of handling Linux/Unix based servers, dumb terminals and windows machines.

NIC's contribution towards e-Governance & automation of district administration processes is briefly mentioned below :

☞ | **SUWIDHA:** This single-point citizen interface for receipt of applications and delivery of services called Single User-friendly Window Disposal & Helpline for Applicants (SUWIDHA) provides services like issuance of arms licenses, learning licenses etc.

☞ | **Sub-Registrar Office:** PRISM (Property Registration Information System Module) software has been developed by NIC Punjab State Centre, with the objective of bringing transparency in registration system.

☞ | **District Treasury Office:** Treasury Information System has been implemented at District Treasury Office. The system regularly transfers data to the State finance department.

☞ | **District Social Security Office:** Social Security Information System (SSIS) facilitates monitoring and disbursement of pensions to more than 70,000 pensioners.

☞ | **Office of Commissioner:** Software like payroll, GPF maintenance, cause-list generation and personal information system of the Naib Tehsildars have been implemented in the office of Commissioner, Jalandhar division.

☞ | **Personnel Information Management System** for Patwaries (PIMS) was



implemented in 1992. This software is used to generate seniority list of Kanungos/Patwaries and annual confidential report performance.

☞ | **GPF Account Maintenance** for ministerial, revenue and class IV staff of DC's office is in progress to generate individual/annual/monthly statements.

☞ | **Monthly Revenue Statement:** CRO wise monthly statements are generated for monthly revenue meetings.

☞ | **District & Sessions Courts:** Payroll and GPF package is successfully implemented in the district courts which has complete database of officers and thus generates pay-slips and other schedules like GPF statements, GIS, house rent recovery, income tax etc.

☞ | **NICNET:** NICNET Email/Internet connectivity has been provided to various Govt. departments in Jalandhar like Press Information Bureau, Customs and Central Excise, FCI, National Fertilizer Ltd, MILKFED etc.

NIC Jalandhar has also implemented ICT applications in various other departments such as Passport office, Education survey etc. Weekly/monthly progress reports are being generated for Literacy Mission, Agriculture Development Office, Market News Service. NIC Jalandhar officials have also focused on their own skill enhancement, which helps them in performing their duties more effectively.

NIC Jalandhar District Unit
District Informatics Officer
Amolak Singh Kalsi
District Informatics Associate
Ranjit Singh

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TIRUNELVELI : *The Oxford of South India*



Tirunelveli District, the penultimate southernmost district of Tamil Nadu, is a microcosm of the state with all the 5 geographical divisions referred in the Tamil literature: Kurinji (Mountains), Mullai (Forests), Marudham (Cultivable Lands), Neithal (Coastal area) and Palai (Desert). Tirunelveli is one of the biggest districts in the state with 11 taluks. Total population of the district is 27,23,988. The district has large number of educational institutions. Hence, the title of 'Oxford of South India'.

NIC Tirunelveli District Unit: NIC Tirunelveli District Unit was established on 30th August 1988. Since then the centre has been promoting ICT culture at grass root level.

Major ICT Projects

• **Tamil Nilam (Tamil Nadu Infosystem on Land Administration and Management):** Tamil Nilam has been implemented in all 11 taluk offices. It contains data related to more than 18 lakh land parcels and 16 lakh landowners. More than 1 lakh Land Ownership certificates have been issued through the system in the last 2 years. Interconnectivity has been established between taluk office and the respective Sub Registrar office in 5 taluks using LAN. This enables quick exchange of land transaction details between the two offices. Sub-registrar can see the ownership details before registration. Touch Screen Kiosks have been installed at 4 taluk offices. Public can view land ownership, birth/death records etc using the kiosks. Entire user interface is in Tamil.

• **Treasury System:** The system developed by the State Centre has been implemented in district treasury and all 11 sub treasuries. Pension disbursement system developed by

Tirunelveli district has been replicated in all other districts. Details relating to more than 25,000 government pensioners are maintained in the system.

• **Certificates Management System at Taluks:** Land ownership, birth, death, residential, legal-heirship and income certificates are being issued through computers in all Taluks.

• **Old Age Pension Disbursal System:** More than 24,000 pensioners details are maintained in the system.

• **Grievances Redressal System:** The grievances system has been web enabled to show the status of the action taken on petitions.

• **Scholarship disbursement system:** Particulars of SC/ST students in schools and colleges are maintained for calculation of scholarship amounts to be disbursed to the institutions.

• **Other Applications:** Various other application systems are utilized by departments such as Adi Dravidar Welfare, Civil Supplies, Rural Development, Small Industries, Labour & Employment, Rehabilitation and Ex-Servicemen. One of the important efforts has been to identify the bogus ration cards by validating the consolidated data of fair price shops in the district and filtering the cards for verification. The system developed by Tirunelveli district for Ex-Servicemen Office for issuing Identity Card has been implemented in many districts in Tamil Nadu. Support is also given for various other state/national level projects such as Elections, Education Survey, BPL Survey, Census, Agmarknet and Examination Results dissemination.

• **NICNET Services:** Using the NICNET connectivity, various departments update periodical data. Some of the important web based applications are for drought/flood monitoring system for Revenue department,

weekly reporting system of Agriculture department, periodical reports to the Directorates of Health, Civil Supplies, Backward Classes, Statistics etc. Email services are being utilized by all departments. Services are extended using LAN in the Collectorate.

• **District Website:** A comprehensive website has been developed for district and hosted at <http://www.nellai.nic.in>. The site has exhaustive information on general details, administration, agriculture, education, irrigation and tourism. Blood donors' details are disseminated using the website. Status of the public petitions submitted to District Collector can also be viewed.

• **Training:** Regular training programmes are conducted for using application systems and office tools. The present thrust has been to train Village Panchayat officials to use computers in Panchayats. Technical support is being given for making use of the Video Conferencing.



NIC Tirunelveli District Unit has been providing active support to District Administration in making use of ICT tools. The service of the NIC District Centre has been appreciated by all the heads of departments in the district. The District Collector honoured the DIO and DIA with Commendation Certificates in the year 2003. It has been an incentive to strive further as a team towards good e-Governance.

NIC Tirunelveli District Unit
District Informatics Officer
S. Devarajan
District Informatics Associate
P Arunmugainar

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ICT at LBSNAA Mussoorie

Mussoorie, with its green hills and varied flora and fauna, is a fascinating hill resort. Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, Mussoorie gets its name from the Mansur shrub.

NIC Training Unit

National Informatics Centre Training Unit (NICTU) under the flag of NIC HQ, New Delhi was established in December 1988 at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie to cater to the training needs of recruits of IAS and allied services during the training programmes conducted at the Academy. NICTU functions as an independent unit within the Academy.

Faculty

NICTU has its own permanent faculty. The teaching methodology comprises lectures-cum-live demonstrations and discussions followed by practice sessions. The course contents have been carefully designed to meet the need of the officer trainees in order to make optimum use of computing facilities. The course material gets updated from time to time. NICTU lab is equipped with the modern training facilities such as latest P4 systems interconnected with LAN, Internet connectivity, audio-visual equipment etc.

Training Calendar

Since NICTU functions solely for the Academy, all training and related activities of NICTU fit well within the training modules conducted by the Academy. An academic year consists the four major programmes conducted for various groups of officer trainees. The Academy also conducts, on an average, eight training programmes for senior officers of the IAS. NICTU develops and conducts computer training modules for these programmes:

- **Foundation Course I** : For All India Services and Central Services

(Group A) for a batch of 280-300 participants from September to December.

- **Foundation Course I** : For All India Services and Central Services (Group A) for a batch of 150-200 participants from March to June.
- **IAS Professional Course Phase I** : For the Officer Trainees for the batch of 80-100 participants from December to May.
- **IAS Professional Course Phase II** : For the Officer Trainees for the batch of 80-100 participants from June to August.
- **Induction Course** : For the officers promoted/selected list to IAS from State Civil Services for 100-120 participants from January to December.
- **In-Service Programme** : For the IAS officers of 6-9 years, 10-16 years and 17-20 years seniority for 100-120 participants from January to December.

Objectives

- NICTU course modules for Foundational Course (I & II) focuses upon getting the officer trainees rid of the fear of the machine, developing skills in the use of computers and orienting them towards the use of computers.
- For IAS Professional Course Phase I, the objectives are to make the trainees proficient in the use of computers, to develop some professional skills, to expose them to the concepts of System Analysis and Design and make them familiar with E-Governance and computing environment.
- IAS Professional Course Phase II, ensures proficiency in using computers, through good understanding of systems and related developmental tasks and provides a thorough understanding of the district level computing environment and E-Governance.

- For In-Service courses, the objectives are to make the trainees familiar with latest technologies in IT field. The number of lectures and hands-on sessions are different for In-Service and Induction courses.

Core curriculum

All training and related activities of NICTU fit well within the training modules conducted by the academy. The curriculum is well designed by NICTU faculty for different groups of Officers Trainees. The varied topics for computer course for the trainees are related to Software, Hardware and Operating Systems, Internet and e-mail, System Security, Office Automation, Database Design, Network & Communication technology, Client Server technology, Project Management (MS Project), System Analysis and Design, E-governance, Geographical Information System, Graphics, Web designing etc.

Methodology

The methodology of the NIC Training Unit is based upon the following strategy:

- Lecture-cum-Demonstrations
- Hands on Computer Sessions
- Case Studies
- Class and Take-Home Assignments
- Presentations by the participants
- Web based learning

Future Plans

Subject experts from NIC support groups and guest faculties are also invited by NICTU whenever it is necessary. Besides designing and conducting independent computer training modules, NICTU has plans to introduce new courses.

In the words of Sh. Binod Kumar, Secretary, Govt. of India and Director, LBSNAA, Mussoorie, "NIC Training Unit has been playing an important role in imparting computer training to the civil servants including senior IAS officers for 16 years. The training conducted by NICTU in Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration over the years has played a vital role in creating awareness about the potential of Information Technology among the Officer Trainees."

For further details, please mail to mantosh@lbsnaa.ernet.in



▶ IPS Sethi & Alka Mishra, NIC HQ

ICT Cooperation with Government of Lao PDR

The Government of India has planned to assist the Government of LAO PDR in establishing an "Information Technology Centre with Value Addition" at Vientiane under its International Technical Exchange Cooperation (ITEC) Programme to strengthen its South-South Cooperation. As agreed in the Fourth meeting of the India-Lao Joint Commission held in July 2002 at New Delhi, the Government of India deputed the Information Technology Expert (Shri M.Moni, Deputy Director General, NIC) to Vientiane (Lao PDR) to explore the feasibility of setting up of the "Information Technology Centre" during 2-6 June 2003. The feasibility report was submitted to MEA in June 2003, and subsequently the recommendations were accepted by MEA for execution through NIC.

NIC has now entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on **Information Communication Technology Cooperation** with Government of Lao PDR. On behalf of NIC the MOU was signed by the Ambassador of India to the Lao PDR with the Minister to the Prime Minister's Office and President of the Science, Technology and Environment Agency (STEA), Government of Lao PDR on 17th September 2004 at Vientiane (Lao PDR). As per the MOU, there are 9 'Areas of Cooperation' to be implemented by NIC with funding from Ministry of External Affairs in phased manner. These areas are:

- ✦ Setting up of an Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Training Laboratory with 25 Computers with software tools
- ✦ Capacity Building of Government Officials through Human Resource Development for 150 Government officials in Four Course Modules of 5 days duration
- ✦ MCA Programme for 30 LAO Students in India for 3 years duration
- ✦ Setting up of National Data Centre (e-Governance Infrastructure)

- ✦ Establishment of 5 pilot rural telecenters (Community Information Centre) in remote and rural areas along the Mekong River for ICT Penetration in Agriculture, Rural Health and Rural Development Programmes
- ✦ Establishing a VSAT based network for 18 Provinces (Provincial Informatics Centre – PIC)
- ✦ Assisting in preparation of Cyber Security, Cyber Laws and Certification Authority
- ✦ Entrepreneur Development Programme in Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Quality Education
- ✦ Solving the issue of Lao Language Information Processing

MEA has accepted implementation of all the above 'Areas of Cooperation' at a total cost of Rs. 17.15 crores in phased manner and approved Rs 9.60 crores for the implementation of first 5 project components during Phase-I. NIC has taken up the implementation of the first two project components:

- ✦ **Setting up of ICT Training Lab**
- ✦ **Capacity Building through Human Resource Development Programme for 150 officials of Govt of Lao PDR**



Project supervisor conducting a lecture
A state of the art ICT training lab has been successfully installed, commissioned and made operational by NIC at PMO, Vientiane with necessary hardware, software, networking and teaching aid facilities.

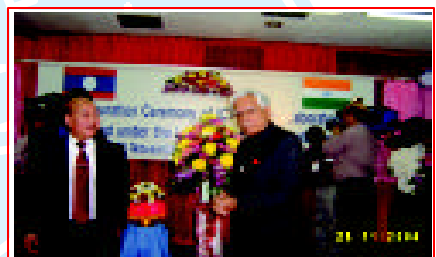


ICT training lab set up at Vientiane

Hon'ble Union External and Foreign Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh and Minister to PMO and President of STEA, Prof. Dr. Bountiem Phissamay jointly inaugurated the ICT Training Lab on 28th November 2004. Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG NIC and Smt. Alka Mishra, TD were present in Vientiane during the Inaugural Ceremony.



Dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony



Inauguration of ICT Training Lab, jointly by Sh. Natwar Singh & Minister to PMO and President of STEA, Prof Bountien Phissamay

The Capacity Building for the first batch of 30 Government Officials of Lao PDR commenced from 24th November to 28th November 2004 at the State-of-the-Art ICT Training Lab, Vientiane. Hon'ble Union External and Foreign Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh and Minister to PMO, President of Science, Technology and Environment Agency, Vientiane jointly awarded the Participation Certificate to the participants.

For further details, please contact
amishra@nic.in

▶ | *Ajay Singh Chahal, Himachal Pradesh Correspondent*

New ICT Projects at Himachal Pradesh

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sh. Virbhadra Singh recently inaugurated a number of IT related projects developed by NIC in a special function held at HP Secretariat. The Ministers for Revenue & Rural Development, Industries and Cooperatives, Food & Supplies and Horticulture attended the function. All Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Heads of Departments and senior officers of State Govt were present.

The function to launch the NIC developed projects was organized by the HP Department of Information Technology. Sh. Sanjeev Gupta, Secretary Information Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh presented highlights of the products being launched and stressed that some of the projects require inter departmental coordination while others can be simply replicated in almost all Government organizations to increase accountability, efficiency, transparency and objectivity. Brief presentations on these projects were made by NIC officers.

Sh. Virbhadra Singh, Chief Minister, HP in his speech, complimented the efforts of the concerned departments, NIC and the IT Department in launching these initiatives. The following projects, designed and developed by NIC HP State Centre, Shimla were launched by the Chief Minister:

☞ | **References Monitoring System of NIC (REFNIC):** The software has been developed by NIC in GUI interface using VB/SQL and is under implementation in more than 100 branches of HP Secretariat. The software keeps track of the file/letter movement and has features for eTracking of any letter and file by searching for the same by subject, date, name or any keyword on the Secretariat LAN as well as on the Internet (proposed). The software generates electronic and printed reminders automatically. NIC has imparted training to 520 officials on the REFNIC software for smooth implementation of the software. The Chief Minister mentioned in his speech, "I would like to compliment the

Department of Information Technology as well as the National Informatics Centre in implementing this software."



Release of REFNIC software CD by the CM

☞ | **Online Filing of Sales Tax Returns:** Himachal Pradesh is the first and the only State in the country to introduce filing of Sales Tax Returns through the Internet. With the launch of this feature, more than 35000 registered dealers can avail of this facility for filing of the returns through the website of the department. Special camps at industrial areas of the State are proposed to educate the dealers about online filing. A demonstration of this interface was made by NIC and the feature is available at the official website of the HP Excise & Taxation department at <http://hptax.nic.in>

☞ | **Web Enabled Bilingual Library Search:** The web interface for searching more than 60000 books in the HP Secretariat was launched and hosted at <http://himachal.nic.in/library>. This enables the members to search the books by author, title and accession number and publisher both in Hindi and English.

☞ | **Himachal Registration MIS (HIMRIS):** The software for registration of land deeds was formally launched and the CD was released for replication in all Tehsils of Himachal Pradesh. The software speeds up and secures the process of registration of deeds.

☞ | **Web Enabled G2E Interface for TA/ Medical/Salary:** The employees of the HP Secretariat, numbering about 2000, need no

longer to make repeated visits to the Accounts and Cash section to find out the status of their medical, TA and salary bills, whether passed or not. The TA and Medical bills now be processed on the lines of Paybills by using a software developed for this purpose. The employees will enter their employee code in the web interface to know the status of their pending bills.



A view of NIC HP officers giving presentations

☞ | **Touch Screen Information Kiosk:** A touch screen kiosk was inaugurated for installation in the Secretariat Reception. The software developed by NIC helps a visitor to the HP Secretariat in knowing the location, availability, meeting schedule, phone number, personal assistant information, room and floor number of any minister, officer and department. The touch screen will also have important G2C interfaces for general public.

☞ | **HRTC Time Table:** The generalized time table of Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) was launched on the HRTC website at <http://hrtc.nic.in>. While the website and data has been entered by HRTC, the web interface for searching bus routes based on stations, time, class of bus has been developed by NIC Himachal Pradesh.



Touch Screen features being explained by SIO, NIC HP

For details, kindly mail to ajay@hp.nic.in



▶ Syed Taha Owais, NIC Sikkim

UBIQUITOUS COMPUTING – A New Paradigm

“The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it.”

Ubiquitous Computing (UC) is an emerging paradigm for interaction between people and computers. Its aim is to break away from the desktop computing to provide computational services to users when and where required. Its real aim is to make computing disappear from focus of attention, so that humans can think beyond computing. This article discusses the general concept of ubiquitous computing, its application and advantages.

The term was coined by late Mark Weiser, who worked at Xerox, USA. He is known as the father of Ubiquitous Computing. UBIQUITOUS means ‘present everywhere simultaneously’. Thus UC is the ability to perform computing in every environment. The basic objective of this new concept is to make humans interact with numerous aspects of computing which may not be visible otherwise. According to Weiser- “Ubiquitous Computing is the method of enhancing computing use by making many devices/services available throughout the physical environment, but making them effectively invisible to the user”. The highest ideal is to make a computer so embedded, so fitting and so natural that we use it without even thinking about it. Ubiquitous Computing can also be defined as the computing environment which conceals computing devices, resources and technology from user or application.

History

The idea of UC first arose from contemplating the place of today's computer in actual activities of everyday life. During the early evolution of computing, many people shared a large computer called Main Frames, which had its own environment. The users came to these environments for their computing requirements. Later, we saw the development of desktop computing and personal computers proliferated deep into our lives. Today's computing is seriously limited. In order to accomplish a simple task, the user has to perform a series of unrelated and unessential rituals in computing.

Development of Tabs, Pads, Boards (all at PARC Xerox, 1988-1994), classrooms, SAMMPad

(Simple Architecture Analysis Method Pad) and Virtual Reality became pointers to the technology of the future. Recent times have seen developments in hardware miniaturization, stable wireless and radio communication, secured and transparent WWW and as a result, technology has become more context-aware, automated and accessible.

Requirement of UC

Implementation of UC presents a challenging task. An ideal Ubiquitous Computing System should have following characteristics; namely

Autonomy and Context Awareness
Persistent Service
Natural Interface

Weiser suggested a scenario where computing can be used much like a scrap paper, get hold of one, use it and then discard it. Thus there should be ubiquity in content, devices and resources. Thus ubiquitous system requires resources from hardware to communications, from software to accustomed users.

Hardware: There should be movement forward towards nanotechnology which promises to miniaturize computer component down to atomic level.

Networking: Evolution of newer communication technology like CDMA, GPRS, GSM, WAP and I-mode hold promise for UC. Present bandwidth can support multimedia application. There is need to standardize these into well laid protocol which is fault-tolerant, secured and transparent.

User Interface: The system should be able to tolerate heterogeneity of devices and continue to provide constant interface. New devices have to come into existence like digital pen, speech recognition system like ViaVoice (From IBM).

Scalability: In UC environment, where thousands of devices are part of the whole, scalability of the system is a key requirement. All the devices must be able to operate

independently; a decentralized management will be most suitable.

Interoperability: This is the most important requirement of UC. Use of technologies like Java, Jini and CORBA may provide desired interoperability, but there is a need to standardize the process.

Resource Discovery: It is the ability of a device to declare their presence over the network and also its ability to realise the presence of other devices in a given environment.

Privacy and Security: These components should be inbuilt into the architecture of ubiquitous system and be able to dispel fear from user of being monitored and prevent misuse of system.

Challenges in Ubiquitous Computing

In ubiquitous system, user is the center of attention. Thus, the system should be able to fit into the psychology of humans and should be able to adapt to the environment instead of creating one for itself. One of the major challenges is to make system context-aware. A number of solutions have been proposed like using cheap sensors, adding GPS into devices etc. There also exists conflict between priorities. Increase in content ubiquity limits device portability and network mobility. Similarly increase in device ubiquity limits content and network bandwidth. Increasing network ubiquity limits network bandwidth and thus content capability.

Achievement, Trends and Researches

A significant amount of success has been realized towards ubiquitous computing. WebPhones, wireless communication and hardware portability have come into existence. Embedded devices like wearable, transducing/transcoding, heterogeneous network will lead to establishment of UC. Recent researches emphasize on context-sensitiveness and natural user interface. CPU, memories, networking and tiny display will ever be hard pressed to deal with content. Products like M-Link and One World have been designed, Xerox has developed PARC Flatland which uses whiteboard and Audio Aura explores periphery awareness in a typical office environment.

The novel concept of UC promises to free humans from wired computer, reduce addiction and make computing more friendly and trustworthy in the future.

For further details, please contact
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CYBER GOVERNANCE

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

Agriculture Department, Chhattisgarh (<http://www.cgagridept.nic.in>)

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Raman Singh recently inaugurated the website of the departments of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Fisheries, developed under the guidance of NIC Chhattisgarh State Centre. Dr. N Vijayaditya, DG NIC was also present at the august function. The website provides exhaustive information,

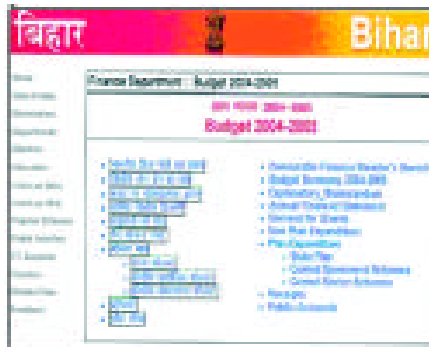


useful to public and department as well, related to agriculture, cooperatives and fisheries departments. Information about various schemes, products, license related information, informative photographs, links to important sites such as the Meteorological Department and downloadable forms makes the website complete in all respects.

YV Shreenivas Rao,
Chhattisgarh Correspondent

Annual Budget, Bihar (<http://bihar.nic.in/budget>)

Annual Budget of Bihar has been published on the official website of Bihar government. The website contains Major Headwise budget estimate of the current financial year and for the next year, actual expenditure/receipt of the previous financial year for non plan, state plan, central sponsored schemes, central sector schemes and public account. Other financial reports like Annual Financial



Statement, Budget Summary, Explanatory Memorandum and Demands for Grants can also be viewed on the website. Annual Budget of last few years have also been published on the site for reference.

NK Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Kozhikode & Kannur (<http://epfmalabar.nic.in>)

The website for the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Kozhikode and Kannur, developed with the support of NITPU, Cochin, provides important information regarding the application status of an employee besides enabling a person to



find his/her balance account. Other important information being provided on the site are calculation of pension,

remittance status, list of defaulters etc.

Julie Rachel Zachariah, NIC Cochin

Legislative Assembly, Assam (<http://assamassembly.nic.in>)

The Assam Legislative Assembly website was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Speaker Shri Prithibi Majhi at the Assembly Secretariat. The website designed and hosted by NIC Assam State Centre, and

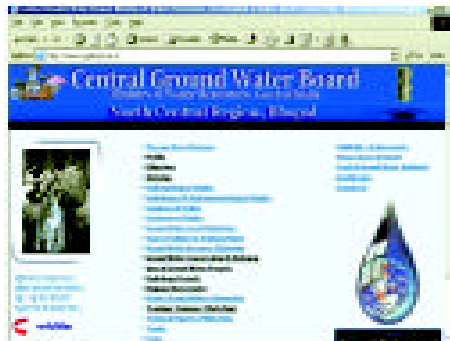


published by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat contains useful information like history, facts and figures of Assam beginning from 1937. It also contains the detailed information about the ministers of the state.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

Central Ground Water Board, Bhopal (<http://www.cgwbmp.nic.in>)

The official website of North Central Region (NCR) of Central Ground Water Board, Bhopal has been released in the public domain. It is a part of CGWB (Central Govt). This wing of CGWB is responsible for carrying out ground water surveys, monitoring water levels, artificial recharge studies, geophysical surveys, management of ground water resources, awareness and training programmes and regulation of ground water resources for irrigation and industrial uses, water supply investigations for defense, railways etc. The website provides detailed information on activities, hydro geological, hydrological & hydro-meteorological, geophysical geochemical studies, ground water level monitoring, resource



estimation, conservation & research and trainings/workshops conducted by CGWB.

Santosh Shukla, MP Correspondent

☞ | **Missing Persons Website, Police Department, West Bengal**
(<http://kolkata.wb.nic.in/missing>)

West Bengal Police and NIC have worked in collaboration for developing a website for registration of/ information about missing persons in the state. NIC WBSC has developed & hosted the website whereas, data entry and operation are carried out by the West Bengal Police. A missing/recovered person's information is



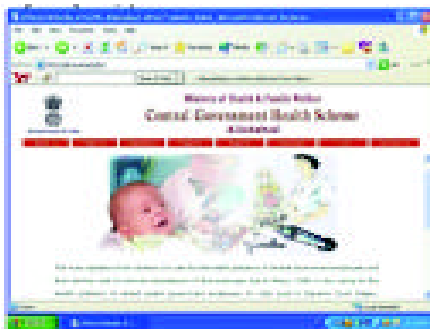
lodged at a police station which is uploaded onto the website. The website matches missing persons with recovered persons and automatically sends alerts to concerned police stations and the state CID. Public can give information to the police regarding missing persons and find out the status of inquiry lodged. This pioneering website helps in tracing those who have moved beyond state and

national borders.

M Rahman, West Bengal Correspondent

☞ | **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh**
(<http://cghsallahabad.nic.in>)

The official website of Central Government Health Scheme, Allahabad, designed and developed by NIC High Court Unit, Allahabad, was launched by Dr. NK Anand, Additional Director, CGHS. The site contains information about infrastructure at dispensaries, doctors and their contact numbers, recognized hospitals and diagnostic centers, downloadable forms



etc. Beneficiaries can log onto the website and check the status of their medical bills submitted to CGHS for reimbursement. Weekly reports and list of medicines available can be seen.

Anshu Rohatgi, UP Correspondent

☞ | **Web Portal on AIDS Awareness, Haryana**
(<http://haryanahealth.nic.in/hancs.htm>)

With an objective to spread awareness about AIDS among masses through all possible means of communication, Haryana State AIDS Control Society has launched a web portal on AIDS awareness, designed and developed by NIC Haryana, to incorporate Internet services for the purpose. Hon'ble Health Minister of Haryana Dr. ML Ranga inaugurated the portal on December 1st, World AIDS Day and appreciated the

efforts put in by NIC Haryana in enhancing the quality of health services through computerization.

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

☞ | **National Panchayat Portal**
(<http://panchayat.nic.in>)

The National Panchayat Portal, designed and developed by NIC, contains the portal framework of State PR departments, all 540 Zila Parishads, all 6096 Blocks and all 2,40,000 Village Panchayats, with the website of the Ministry acting as a gateway and homepage to the portal designed to disseminate information to common man.

The website of the Ministry presents information on various legislations and policies, guidelines of schemes of the Ministry, circulars, news, status of implementation of Panchayati Raj initiatives across the states etc. The Portal framework of State PR department, ZPs/BPs/VPs has been provided with indicative categorization in the context of functional scope of PRI and could be altered dynamically, as needed along with language, color, fonts and layout settings. The respective stakeholders shall regularly update the content and shall link the portal to already running back-end solutions.

While inaugurating the portal during the conference on 'Introduction of e-Governance in Rural PRIs and Capacity Building' at Jaipur from 17-19 December 2004, the hon'ble Union Minister for Panchayati Raj Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said, "If government can extend the reach of ICT and the use of e-Governance at village level, then almost all problems of the PRIs in the country could be solved."

Manie Khaneja, NIC HQ

VISIT
<http://registry.gov.in>
to register a
'GOV.IN' domain



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.....

NIC at IT.COM 2004, Bangalore

NIC participated in the IT.COM 2004, an international ICT event held at Bangalore from 1st to 5th November 2004, to showcase various e-Governance projects successfully implemented across the country. Sri. S. M. Acharya, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Department of Public Administration and Reforms was the Guest of Honour at the NIC stall. Shri. N Dharamsingh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka and other senior officials visited the stall and expressed their appreciation for the projects on display. Various NIC state units participated in the event and made their presence felt by showcasing various ICT applications developed and implemented



Hon'ble CM Shri N Dharam Singh at the NIC stall

in the respective states. Two of the most successful projects implemented by NIC Punjab, PRISM (Property Registration Information System Module) and e-SUWIDHA (Single User Window Disposal Helpline for Applicants) were also demonstrated. All the projects generated considerable interest among participants and visitors.

C Thangavel, NIC Karnataka & Vikram Jeet Grover, Punjab Correspondent

e-Kosh: Online computerization of Treasuries, Chhattisgarh

The pilot phase of NIC Chhattisgarh's first major paid project e-Kosh was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh on 4th Nov 2004 at Raipur. The event concluded successfully with CM



DG NIC speaking at inauguration ceremony

receiving his salary cheque printed through the software. Dr. N. Vijayaditya, DG NIC was present on the occasion. Hon'ble CM appreciated the efforts of the treasuries department and NIC for maintaining the time frame in achieving the task. A VSAT based VPN will be established connecting all offices down to the level of Sub Treasuries after which all the transactions will be processed online. The e-Kosh software developed by NIC covers the treasury subsystems viz. Payments, Receipts, Deposit Accounts, Works Accounts, Pensions and Stamp Accounting. Electronic data transfer to AG office and Reserve Bank of India will be incorporated at a later date.

YV Shreenivas Rao, Chhattisgarh Correspondent

Visit of Japanese Delegation to NIC, Karnataka

Institute of Administrative Information Systems (IAIS), Japan, is a specialist organization for promoting the application of IT in administrative departments. A 20-member delegation from IAIS led by Shri.Momozaki Hideru, President, visited NIC Bangalore on 22nd November 2004 to know about the e-Governance projects undertaken by Karnataka State unit of NIC. Shri BV Sarma, SIO & STD, apprised the delegation about NIC's activities and projects through a presentation. The delegation took keen interest in projects like Bhoomi, Rural Digital Services, Mukyavahini, Sachivalaya Vahini, Krishi Marata Vahini, e-Granthalaya

and computerization of RTO, BWSSB & Finance departments. The team had a glimpse of some of the websites developed by NIC which left them impressed by the wealth of information available over the net. The delegation was of the view that by executing citizen centric projects, the digital divide can be narrowed down.

M Mahabalashetty, Karnataka

Inauguration of Projects over VC, Jharkhand

Presiding over the 4th State Day function, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Arjun Munda inaugurated 5 projects over Videoconferencing. The projects inaugurated are Water Treatment Plant, Sewer Treatment Plant, High Tech Dairy, Sidhu Kanhu Park at Ranchi and Modern Fishery Laboratory at Dhurwa. NIC Jharkhand State Unit provided the Videoconferencing support by connecting all the 5 locations over ISDN Network. Hon'ble CM addressed the authorities present at each site.

Sambeet Mishra, NIC HQ

Workshop on Implementation of SSIS, Punjab

A one-day workshop on the implementation of Social Security Information System (SSIS) was organized at the office of Directorate of Social Security and Women & Child Welfare attended by all the District Social Security Officers (DSSOs) of Punjab along with other senior officers of DSSWCD. The workshop was inaugurated by Sh.S.R.Ladher, IAS Director (DSSWCD). He emphasized on the importance of the implementation of the project in the state for providing convenience to the old, rural and needy citizens as well as its utility to the department and directed for its speedy statewide roll out of the project. SSIS has already been successfully implemented at Fatehgarh Sahib as pilot district. The officers from NIC Punjab made presentation and gave detailed demonstration of SSIS in interactive and brainstorming sessions with the department officers. The workshop ended with feedback session and address from Director (DSSWCD).

Vikram Jeet Grover, Punjab Correspondent



☞ | **Computerized Povident Fund Office, Purnea**

Computerized Provident Fund Office at Purnea district was recently inaugurated by the District Magistrate of Purnea, Sh. Pankaj Kumar. Speaking on the occasion the DM said that with computerization of PF Office the works can be done speedily and retired govt. officials will get retirement benefits timely. The software generates the Annual GPF Statement/ Accounts through the data



Hon'ble DM inaugurating the District PFO

entered by the Treasury officers/staffs of District Treasuries from Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj and Buxar against the individual GPF subscriptions. The GPF software 'Bhawishyanidhi' installed at Purnea District PF Office has been designed and developed by NIC Bihar State Centre, Patna. Hon'ble DM also praised the sincere efforts of Shri GK Mishra, DIO, NIC District Centre, Purnea.

NK Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

☞ | **Digital Signature Certificates, Ahmedabad**

A one-day session was recently arranged at NIC, Gujarat State Centre, Gandhinagar for issuance of Digital Signature Certificates under the REIC (Regional Economic Intelligence Committee) project, by NIC-CA (Certifying Authority), NIC HQ. REIC is a group formed to look into the economic offenses and comprises of officers from Excise, Customs, Income Tax, Revenue Intelligence, Sales Tax and Enforcement Directorate. Officials from NIC-CA group had issued Digital Signature Certificates to REIC Ahmedabad and demonstrated Online sharing of confidential information in encrypted form. Senior officers of Excise, Income Tax, Customs, Sales Tax, Enforcement and Revenue Intelligence from REIC Ahmedabad and Vadodara were also present.

Manoj PA, Gujarat Correspondent

☞ | **Office Automation Suite (OAS), Punjab**

NIC Punjab has released Office Automation Suite (OAS) with the objective of introducing automation of government departments in Punjab. OAS comprises of four modules namely; Diary and Dispatch Monitoring System (DDMS), Court Cases Monitoring System (CCMS), Meeting Monitoring System (MMS) and Reference Monitoring System (RMS). These modules are generic & parameterized and can be implemented in any office/department. DDMS can help an office to capture the data as well as workflow of the movement of mail received. With CCMS, the office can build and monitor the court cases of the office pending in various courts. MMS facilitates organizing the meetings in an office whereas RMS can help to keep track and monitor references received and forwarded to other departments/officers.

Vikram Jeet Grover, Punjab Correspondent

☞ | **NIC at India International Trade Fair 2004**

India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2004 was recently organized in New Delhi where NIC made its presence felt by showcasing its various projects. Since the theme was 'IT and Agriculture', various NIC state units including Haryana, Punjab and Assam demonstrated the initiatives taken by them for IT induction in Agriculture. Haryana organized a seminar on 'Application of IT in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry' and a presentation on 'IT Driven Agriculture in Haryana-Issues & Challenges' was made by Mr. Ghan Shyam Bansal, SIO Haryana. Two of the most successful computerization projects executed by NIC Punjab, PRISM (Property Registration Information System Module) and SUWIDHA (Single User Window Disposal Help-line for Applicants) were showcased.

NIC Assam State Centre highlighted the role of IT in rural development and agriculture through demonstration of activities at CICs. Applications that help masses, self-help groups and general public for citizen-centric services drew keen interest from visitors. e-Suvidha implemented in Assam was a great attraction in the fair.

Informatics Correspondents from respective states

☞ | **SESAM Workshop, Punjab**

Workshop on Super Element Structural Analysis Modules software (SESAM) software to carry out Finite Element Analysis, Design and Detailing was organized by NIC Punjab. Mr R.S. Sandhu, Secretary (PWD), Punjab inaugurated the workshop. Chief engineers, executive engineers and other officers from the department participated in the workshop. Mr. P.V. Lakshminarayan, SrTD, CAD Group, NIC HQ demonstrated the SESAM software and carried out analysis for some of the Projects handled by PWD, Punjab. Shri Sandhu, Secretary (PWD), Govt. of Punjab appreciated the efforts of NIC in this sector.

Sarbjee Singh, Punjab Correspondent

☞ | **Payslip of Seven NE states through IntraNIC**

Payslip of the NIC employees of seven North East states falling under DDO, Guwahati are now made available through IntraNIC website. This has facilitated the individual employee to view or download his/her payslip online. The web-enabled system is integrated with the payroll database maintained at NIC Assam State Centre. The system is developed in PHP and PostgreSQL database under Linux, with dynamic printable PDF file generation facility.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

☞ | **Workshop for PHED, Assam**

As part of NIC's strategic initiatives in e-Governance applications development, a five-day workshop was held at NIC Assam



State Centre. The workshop, which was attended by officials of NIC and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) of eight North East states, covered training on Object Technology, Unified Modeling Language (UML) and .NET technology. The main objective was



to prepare a revised SRS for development of a web-based software for Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM). Faculty drawn from IBM-Rational, Microsoft, and NIC HQ trained the 28 participants at the Workshop. Shri D.C.Misra, SrTD, NIC HQ co-ordinated the programme personally and encouraged the participants with technical guidance.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

☞ | Progress Review at NIC Punjab & Haryana State Centres

During a two-day tour at Chandigarh recently, Honable Dr Shakeel Ahmad, Minister of State for Communications and IT, Govt of India, reviewed the functioning of NIC Punjab State Centre apart from other offices under MoCIT. Sh. Sunil Kumar, SIO Punjab made a presentation on the major projects implemented by NIC Punjab and apprised him about other initiatives in the pipeline. The Minister appreciated the efforts made by NIC Punjab in implementation of e-governance in the state.

The Hon'ble Minister also reviewed IT activities and e-Governance projects carried out by NIC in Haryana. Mr. Ghan Shyam Bansal, SIO NIC Haryana made a presentation and gave a status report to the Hon'ble Minister who appreciated the efforts of NIC in the state and informed that VC facility would be extended to other parts of the State apart from the six districts which are already connected.

Vikram Jeet Grover, Punjab Correspondent & Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

☞ | Media Response System, Gujarat

NIC Gujarat has developed and implemented a web system for monitoring the news published in the State/National newspapers concerned with the modus operandi of the Government and its Departments in Gujarat. Director of Information initiated this to assist the Hon'ble Chief Minister in keeping a watch on news items related to Government in 43 major daily newspapers published in and outside Gujarat.

The brief of the media reports published are added either in Gujarati or in English on a day-to-day basis and monitored by the

Director of Information and CM Office. A follow-up mechanism is also a part of the system for the respective departments to view reports pertaining to them. As and when the reply is received from the concerned department, it can be updated. The date on which the newspaper publishes its clarification/rebuttal is also updated. The news clippings are scanned and attached with the news item for reference.

Manoj PA, Gujarat Correspondent

☞ | AISES Workshop, Uttaranchal

A three day workshop on 7th All India School Education Survey was recently organized by NIC Uttaranchal which was attended by the project coordinators from various State Units, NIC HQ and NCERT. Uttaranchal is the first state in the country to complete survey-data collection, compilation and dissemination as per the schedule and to make the same available on the Internet through the website developed by NIC Uttaranchal. Describing the objectives of this project, Additional Chief Secretary said that one can easily obtain information related to schooling facilities such as enrolment of students, school infrastructure, school wise number of teachers etc from the website. Various modules of the project were presented by Sh. SP Rastogi, SrTD and National Project Coordinator and Dr Rakesh Goel, SrTD & SIO NIC Uttaranchal.

AK Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

☞ | Training of Members of Legislative Assembly, Uttaranchal

Recently a training programme on fundamentals of computers & operations was organized by NIC Uttaranchal State Unit for the Hon'ble Members of Uttaranchal Legislative Assembly at Vidhan Bhawan, Dehradun. In an effort towards making the apex body technologically more sophisticated, all the MLAs of the state were provided with laptops.

In the past, NIC Uttaranchal State Unit had organized a number of training programmes for the officials of different departments of Uttaranchal, and now NIC had the privilege to provide such training to the highest policy making body of the state. All the members present gave a positive response at the occasion. Based on the encouraging



Dr. Rakesh Goel, SIO with MLAs

response, Hon'ble Speaker of Uttaranchal Assembly suggested to conduct more such programs.

AK Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

☞ | Network Operation Centre set up for Eight NE States

With a view to increase the speed and bandwidth for Internet and NICNET access in the North East states, a Network Operation Centre (NOC) was recently commissioned in NIC Assam State Centre at Guwahati. The NOC will



act as a Internet and WAN gateway for the NE states of Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Assam. Each of the state capital are connected through a 2 Mbps leased line from BSNL which is terminated at the 34 Mb STM system installed at the NOC. The 34 Mb STM, commissioned by BSNL has a 4 Mbps Guwahati-Delhi leased circuit and a 2 Mbps Guwahati-Hyderabad LC. With the setting up of the NOC, the network speed and the access to NICNET has improved drastically thus improving the quality of Internet access through NIC for the users. A proposal to set-up a Data Centre is in the final stage of implementation at the same premises by NIC to house all mission critical data.

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

☞ | Training on Land Records Correction and Mutation/workflow Software

A six-day training programme on Land

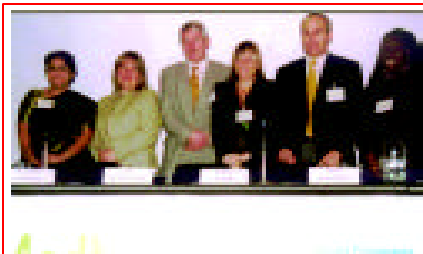


Records Correction and Mutation/ Workflow software was organized for Revenue Department staff at Kakinada, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. Over 100 staff members were trained for six days. District administration has lauded the efforts of NIC East Godavari District.

BVNS Prakasa Rao, East Godavari Distt, AP

☞ | **Mednet 2004, Argentina**

Ms. Naina Pandita, SrTD, NIC HQ attended the 9th World Congress of Medicine in Internet (Mednet 2004) organized by the Medical Association of Argentina from 5th to



7th December 2004 at Buenos Aires. She was invited as a speaker for a round table discussion on 'Access to Health Information' and had the honour of being the only participant from India.

Naina Pandita, NIC HQ

☞ | **Computerisation of District Transport Office, Hazaribagh**

Software Vahan and Sarathi developed by NIC HQ has been implemented at DTO office, Hazaribagh of Jharkhand State Transport Department. First computerized RC Book and license were issued jointly by Hon'ble Minister of Transport Sri Madhav Lal Singh and Hon'ble Minister of Building Construction Sri Dev Dayal. It is a state-of-art solution developed by NIC and is a single window delivery of e-services (G2C) like vehicle registration, tax collection, fee receipts, vehicle fitness issue of driving license etc. Using Vahan, the data entered is verified, tax is calculated and tax token issued immediately. Using the Sarathi software, the issuance of driving licenses has been fully computerized.

SK Deo, NIC Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

☞ | **MPLADS Software Inaugurated**

Shri Oscar Fernandes, Hon'ble Minister of

State for Statistics and Programme Implementation launched a software for monitoring of works under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, designed and developed by MPI Informatics Division, NIC. Smt Shiela Dixit Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Thiru Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology and senior MPs graced the function. This event was also covered by NIC videoconferencing. Dr. BK Gairola, DDG NIC attended the occasion and encouraged the NIC team for their endeavor in developing this software. This software will be used in all districts of the country for works monitoring under MPLADS. It would facilitate the districts to enter detailed information about works undertaken under this scheme. This is a web-enabled application. (<http://www.mplads.nic.in>)

RP Kapoor, NIC HQ

☞ | **Seminar on e-Governance in Municipalities**

A national seminar on 'e-Governance in Municipalities', jointly organized by Ministry of Urban Development, Department of Information Technology, National Institute of Urban Affairs and Indo-USAID Financial



Institutions Reform and Expansion-Debt Project, was held in New Delhi to have an overview of e-governance initiatives in different municipalities in the country. The valedictory address was given by Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Minister for Communications & IT. Sh. RP Saxena, SrTD, NIC HQ presented a paper at the event.

Rajiv P Saxena, NIC HQ

☞ | **MCIT Library Consortium**

The third meeting of the MCIT Library Consortium was held at NIC HQ attended by representatives from NIC, DIT, CDOT, CDAC, TRAI and DOT. The agenda of the meeting was subscription to e-Journals at

Consortium platform from January 2005 and precise source of funding for the Consortium.

PK Upadhyay & Sushant K Panigrahi, NIC HQ

☞ | **Indian delegation visits East Timor**

The Indian delegation with members Sh. M Moni, DDG, NIC HQ, Mr Surinder Dutta, First Secretary, Indian Embassy, Jakarta and Shri VS Raghunathan, TD & SIO, Kerala visited East Timor on study mission with the objective of identifying areas of cooperation



in ICT penetration and digital opportunities for economic growth and sustainable development of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste to improve productivity, employment opportunities etc. The study team held discussions with officials of Government of East Timor Telecom and UN Mission Team and recommended four ICT components as part of the capacity building programme which includes national seminar, technology sessions and other ICT sectoral case studies from India.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

☞ | **DISNIC-PLAN Workshop at Kirorimal College, University of Delhi**

NIC organized a DISNIC-PLAN workshop recently on 'Developing Geo-Spatial Information System for Micro-level Planning in North India' in collaboration with the



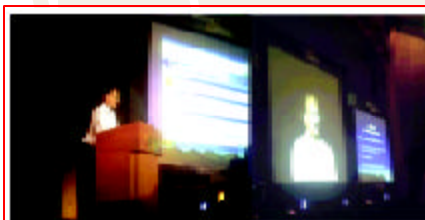


Department of Geography, Kirorimal College. Shri M. Moni, DDG, NIC addressed the gathering with a focus on building up databases, decision support systems to facilitate sustainability of resources, production system and infrastructure planning, need for accurate data collection and computerization. The existing DISNIC-PLAN proforma were discussed and enhanced for additional information requirements, followed by a discussion on 'Fusion of Technology' by Dr. AK Choubey, SrTD and Chairman of the DISNIC-PLAN committee. This workshop was attended by bureaucrats, technocrats, academicians and students, as a step forward in augmenting the knowledge base of the country by developing greater synergy between different sections of people connected with the planning processes.

Sameena Mukhija, NIC HQ

☞ | **eNRICH for Akshaya at Malappuram, Kerala**

Kerala State IT department has rolled out public utility services at Malappuram district



SIO Kerala addressing the gathering

through the 634 Akshaya Kendras which are connected through Wi-Fi broadband. A grievance redressal facility e-Parathi, developed by NIC, was launched by the District Collector of Malappuram, Shri M Sivasankar, IAS. The eNRICH framework from NIC for the Akshaya Centres were launched by Shri VS Raghunathan, SIO, NIC Kerala at Akshaya Enterprise Connect 2004 event.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

☞ | **Lectures on QMS Processes at NIC Patna**

In order to strengthen the Quality Management System (QMS) of NIC Bihar State Centre, a series of lectures were presented by the officers responsible for the

assigned QMS processes at NIC Bihar. A few of the important lectures delivered were by Shri SN Behera, PSA 'Customer satisfaction, data analysis, corrective and preventive action', by Shri Rajiv Ranjan, SSA on 'Knowledge Management', Shri NK Prasad, SSA on 'Training Management' and on 'Control of non-confirming products' by Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, TD. All these deliberations proved to be very useful in the strengthening of QMS processes.

NK Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

☞ | **'Yada Kada Stambha' at NIC HQ**

The Hindi section at NIC HQ has launched a special column named 'Yada Kada Stambha' on the notice board having standardized Hindi equivalents that are used in noting/drafting and correspondence in Hindi. The motive is to propagate Hindi with some special maxims pointed out by reputed celebrities and national leaders in favour of our official and national language Hindi.

Ashok K Chopra, NIC HQ

☞ | **Inauguration of Information Kiosk**

An Information Kiosk was inaugurated by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development to facilitate information



dissemination of the flagship application of Directorate of Estates- Government Accommodation Management System (GAMS) (For details, please refer to *Informatics October 2004* issue).

Rajiv P Saxena, NIC HQ

☞ | **Training for CIC Operators in J&K**

The training programme for operators of CIC Blocks covered in phase-I of the project in J&K State concluded recently under which the training for operators of Jammu division was conducted at Jammu and for Kashmir division at Srinagar. Secretary (IT), J&K and

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar also delivered lectures on various activities to be performed for making the CICs more effective so that the local community is benefited most.

Jit Raj, J&K Correspondent

☞ | **e-Governance Workshop in Bangkok**

The regional workshop on 'Implementing e-Government' was held in Bangkok, jointly organized by Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). About 50 government officials and experts for the Asian countries attended the workshop and shared their views. The presentation made by Sh. M Moni, DDG, NIC HQ focused on the Government of India's digital initiatives and agenda for small and marginalized farmers. The prominent projects discussed during the talk were AGMARKNET and AGRISNET.

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

☞ | **Inauguration of Videoconferencing Network Services**

NIC's endeavour in establishing communication with even the far flung remote parts of the country has been realized to a very great extent by establishing Videoconferencing facilities at various NIC and government offices across the country. Some of the centres to be recently covered under the VC network are 13 sites in Nagaland, Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir, Jodhpur and Jaipur bench of Rajasthan High Court and Department of Coal, Ministry of Coal & Mines, Govt of India.



The Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the respective states congratulated NIC for its active support and assistance for implementation of the network. They emphasized upon optimum utilization of this facility for



administrative purposes and for monitoring of development programmes and ensure greater accountability. VC facility at Rajasthan High Court is first of its kind in the country linking two courts in a state.

Sambeet Mishra, NIC HQ

☞ | **Second National Workshop at DA-IICT, Gujarat**

The second national workshop on 'ICT in Agriculture and Rural Development' was held at DA-IICT on December 16, 2004. Mr. M. Moni, Deputy Director General, NIC HQ was invited to deliver a keynote address at the workshop. He has been elected as the Vice President of India Association of Information Technology in Agriculture (IAITA), DA-IICT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat for the period 2004-06. He has also been elected as the Vice President of the Asian Federation of Information Technology in Agriculture (AFITA), Tokyo for 2004-06.

Moiz Hussain, Maharashtra Correspondent

☞ | **NIC Haryana sets new milestone in IT Literacy**

In pursuance of policy of NIC for spreading IT culture across the country and the policy of Government of Haryana to achieve 100% IT Literacy among government employees, NIC Haryana, in collaboration with Department of Electronics & Information Technology Haryana and with infrastructure inputs from IT Haryana, launched an IT Literacy Programme about three years back. Now at the end of the calendar year 2004, NIC and IT Haryana have crossed the figure of 10,000 in terms of Officers, Judges, Ministers and MLAs who have been imparted basic computer awareness training so far. Many large government organizations like subordinate courts, Haryana Tourism Corporation, HAFED, Rural Development Department and New Secretariat Haryana Establishment have achieved 100% IT

literacy.

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

☞ | **Training Programme on Internet Technology Applications in Libraries**

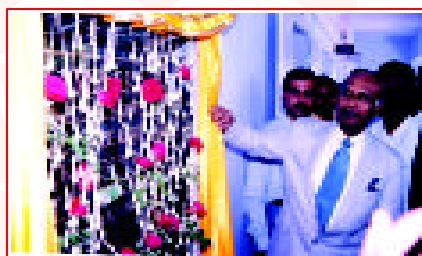
Library & Information Services Division, NIC HQ conducted a five-day training programme on "Internet Technology Applications in Libraries" at the Headquarters. The programme was aimed at middle level Library & Information professionals working in academic, Government and R&D libraries in India. 27 participants attended the training programme.

Dr. N Vijayaditya, DG NIC inaugurated the programme. In his address to the participants, he emphasized upon the need for an effective Content Management on the web by Library and Information professionals. Shri M.Moni, DDG (NIC) conveyed to the audience, the role of NIC in Library Development and its impact on establishing a knowledge based society.

Sushant K Panigrahi, NIC HQ

☞ | **Inauguration of Sampark Citizen Interface Counter at Angul, Orissa**

'Sampark' citizen interface counter for Land Records project at Angul Tahasil was recently inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Orissa, Shri MM Rajendran. Angul district



has been taken as the pilot district in the state for this project by the Ministry of Communications & IT. This interface proposes to improve the quality of service to the citizens for getting computerized RORs and various such certificates easily.

SK Chatterjee, NIC Orissa

☞ | **Energy Billing System, Tripura**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri Manik Shankar Sarkar launched the computerized Energy Billing System for

Electrical Division I of Agartala Municipal Council, The project is a collaborative effort of Power Department and NIC, which is a workflow based solution for Electricity Boards to deal with financial data and



energy auditing. A web enabled touch screen kiosk has also been deployed for customer assistance and to bring transparency to the system.

**Chaitali Bhattacharjee
Tripura Correspondent**

☞ | **Papers Published by NIC Officers**

Title: MCIT Library Consortium

Authors: PK Upadhyay & Sushant K Panigrahi, NIC HQ

Publication: Symposium on Consortia Approach to Resource Sharing- Issues and Policies

Abstract: Demand for latest information and impact of ICT in Library & Information Services has compelled every organization to form a consortium of libraries. In India and abroad many consortium initiatives are running successfully. Information professionals have to be aware of different media in which resources are available and to choose the best according to their requirements. This paper was presented at the symposium organized by Documentation Research & Training Centre, ISI in collaboration with INDEST, IIT Delhi and United States Education Foundation in India (USEFI).

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