EDITOR'S NOTE

We did it again !!...Just like last year, NIC's stall won the first prize at ELITEX this year too .... The dignitaries and other visitors to the exhibition were overwhelmed and greatly impressed by the aesthetic display of products and services depicting the remarkable work being done by NIC in the field of ICT and E-Governance. We carry a special photo-feature of the event to provide a glimpse of the NIC stall to all those who missed being at ELITEX 2005. Another lead story in this issue focuses on 'Analytical Intelligence for Planning and Decision Making in the Government' and talks at length about NIC's efforts and contribution in the area of Business Intelligence Technologies.

We hope that we continue to receive your precious feedback on the news and articles covered by us in each issue as it gives us inspiration to go on and do our best...

Happy Reading...

Sonal Kalra

Readers Write

Dear Editor,

A bulletin like *Informatics* bonds the NICians posted at various places in the Country together in a common thread. We eagerly await the new issue every-time as it keeps us updated about the latest e-gov related happenings across the Country. The April issue of Informatics was highly informative and the novel way of content presentation in the 'Cyber Governance' section gave it a colourful and interesting look. I hope we continue to see positive changes in Informatics in the times to come.

Best Wishes

Deepak Gupta
NIC Cell at Chief Minister's Office, Delhi

Dear Editor,

I am a regular reader of 'Informatics' and I have seen it grow in a positive direction over time, both in terms of content coverage, presentation and treatment of topics. I wish to congratulate the informatics team for their effort. I would like you to include a section on international E- governance activities so that we at NIC can achieve a broader perspective on the efforts being made in this area. A section providing a review of the latest software products launched in the market can also be included to keep the readers updated on the latest tools and technologies.

Wishing "*Informatics*" all the best.

Lokesh Joshi,
NIC HQ

Correction...

On page 22 of April'2005 issue of Informatics, in the news story titled 'Visit of UNDP Representatives to Gram Panchayat, Andhra Pradesh', Dr (Ms) Maxine Olsen, UN Resident co-ordinator, has been wrongly addressed as 'Mr. Maxine Olsen'. The inadvertent error is deeply regretted.

Readers are invited to send their comments/suggestions to the Editor through this column. Your letters may be sent through email at,
sonal@nic.in

or by post at the following address:
Room No. 379, NIC HQ, A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, N.Delhi 110003

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

CONTENTS in this issue

Dr. Gautam Bose & Dr. S S Singh, NIC HQ

NIC at
EliteX 2005
Glimpses

ELITEX-2005, the Electronics and Information Technology Exposition (ELITEX) was organized by the Department of IT during April 25-26, 2005 at India Habitat Center, New Delhi. The theme of ELITEX-2005 was **"GRASSROOTS APPLICATIONS USING ICT".** Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and IT and Sh. Brijesh Kumar, Secretary (DIT) inaugurated the exposition and Sh. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, delivered the keynote address. In the seminar, Dr. N Vijayaditya, DG(NIC) Chaired the session on **"Grassroots Applications"** addressed by various eminent speakers. A Software Product developed by NIC namely **"Offerings from the Treasure Chest of NIC"** was released by the Chief Guest Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran.

The NIC Stall in the ELITEX exhibition was set up to display the products and services implemented for informatics development programs in government at national, state, district and even at village level. There was an overwhelming response of visitors from various organizations at the NIC stall and **the stall was awarded the first prize among the exhibitors.**

Dr. N Vijayaditya, DG (NIC) and Dr. Gautam Bose, DDG (NIC) receiving the trophy from Sh. Ajeer Vidya, JS & FA (DIT)

The products and services at display in the NIC stall at ELITEX 2005

A view of the NIC stall from outside

Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications & IT releasing the 'offerings' CD with Dr. Gautam Bose, DDG (NIC)

Sh. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission along with Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran and Dr. N Vijayaditya at the inauguration of the NIC stall

Dr. N Vijayaditya demonstrating the displayed products at NIC stall to Sh. Brijesh Kumar, Secy. DIT

Proud NICians with the trophy after winning the 'Best Stall' award

Informatics

▷ | *R K Gupta & P Lenin, NIC HQ*

Analytical Intelligence for Planning and Decision Making in the Government

The dynamic business scenario with trends of liberalization and globalisation is posing new challenges before the management at multiple levels of complexity. Some of the challenges which were not considered seriously in the past, but now play an important role relate to free flow of information, technological changes, organizational restructuring, changing ultimate users needs, increasing competitiveness, etc. The advent of IT has lead to a stage that every organization, be it big or small, has over the years compiled, collected and is in possession of a large volume of data. The organizations, which utilize this information bank for efficient running of the system, will certainly sustain and come up further. For this purpose, the organizations have to find out and adopt a right methodology for better utilization of the information base. Apparently, there is a need to make the system more efficient and cost effective than ever before.

The availability of the basic data for information right from the point of generation, at all levels for all the time, is still a problem in most of the organizations. Though the development of computer technologies like Internet and Intranet has further enhanced the utility of these databases as the main supportive system for planning and decision-making, there is still a vacuum in the analysis based decision systems. The growth of IT and its adaptation over the years has been exponential, while at the same time the cost of both hardware and software are decreasing tremendously. New applications in all areas of planning and strategic operation are being developed and used at all levels. Theoretical developments and state of the art tools incorporating the latest and efficient algorithms are also available now, may be not in an integrated fashion. The management applications of the versatile and proven quantitative, management and simulation techniques have a strong development base. The adaptation and applications of these as a system, integrated with ICT of today in the decision-making as a process is still far from reality.

◉| Present Scenario

The growth in IT follows double exponential with no upper limits. Even small enterprises have adopted IT as a part of its growth plan, mainly because of the low cost in developing the infrastructure with significant returns. Moreover, changing IT scenario is also easily accessible even to the new entrants. The processing of the structural information with need based objective(s) for planning and decision-making is required to have an edge. In the government sector, IT is playing a lead role in almost every level of planning with a strong IT support already in place.

◉| RDBM systems

Over a period of time large number of RDBMS have been developed, and are operational within the various central and state government ministries/departments as well as districts of all the states. There is a regular mechanism for maintaining these RDBMS and lot of reports generated for the various kinds of planning and decision making activities in the entire government. Most of the RDBMS are part of the NICNET based management system and thus there is a transportability of these various RDBMS across the entire government for various kinds of reports and applications generation. Thus, the infrastructure, in terms of the computer communication link *i.e.* the hardware as well as software is in position to integrate the objective based RDBMS for specialized applications. These systems are around heterogeneous software and hardware platforms.

◉| Business Intelligence Technology

The need to improve the decision making capabilities using the ever increasing computing power, availability of RDBMS across heterogeneous platforms led to the use of more and more information in the decision making process. Though the information base in each of the sectors has grown into hundreds of thousands of GBs, the peculiarity of database structure does not allow one to perform a detailed analysis on the data in a way one wants to do. Further, even if one does the analysis on large volume of data one should know the complete designing of the data model and its contents. It is practically not possible for any one to know the complete data modelling or the contents and ad hoc query analysis is simply not possible. This implies that only an expert in data modelling can do any sort of desired analysis. Even then it will result in large number of joints and thus drastically reduce the performance. DSS is being used at all levels within an organizational set up and the organizations are now looking for a frame work to accomplish multiple goals. This is the time the analytical intelligence is needed the most. A simple transaction tells what is happening or happened on-line? Other unknown half is what is going to happen? In order to overcome these shortcomings in the RDBMS, a strong need was felt that a new technology or
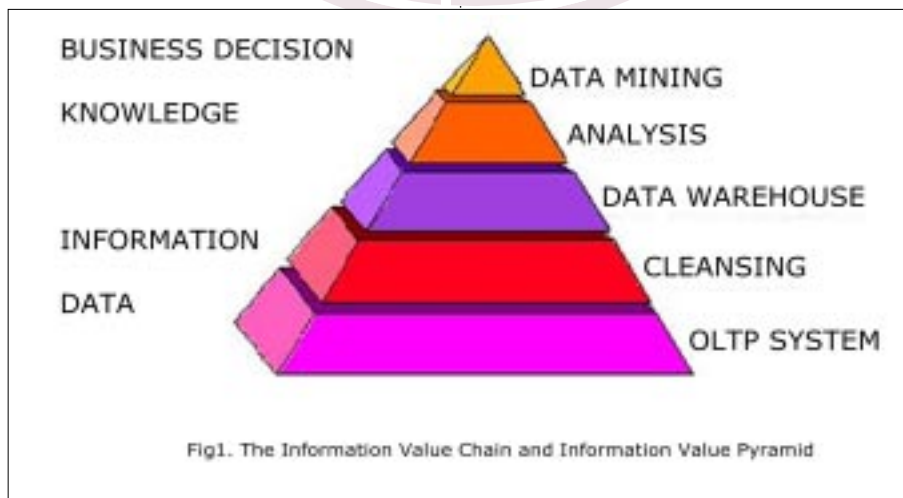

Fig1. The Information Value Chain and Information Value Pyramid

tool is necessary to support the decision making environment. The new technology should facilitate the decision maker, to the maximum extent, in the decision making process. Moreover, the technology should help in transforming the raw data into useful information and then into a knowledge base for the organization. The transformation process is possible with the adoption of data warehouse technology as depicted in fig-1.

◉| Data Warehouse, OLAP & Data Mining
What is data warehouse?
BI/Data warehouse is an essential information technology component for organizations with performance improvement initiatives. At its core, it is the extraction and transformation of data from disparate internal and external sources to information that is used to make decisions in the organization. Data warehouse is a collection of transaction data specifically structured and maintained separately for query and analysis in support of decision-making. In contrast to the OLTP systems, which are built around applications, data warehouses are built around subjects or departments. Moreover, the OLTP model design structure is not suited for analytical applications. If one wants to do analytical applications on the OLTP database itself, it will require lot of joins which in turn will reduce the performance of both the applications. The BI applications are specially meant for decision support, naturally for the top-level management of the organization.

◉| On-Line Analytical Processing (OLAP)
On-Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) is an efficient technology for performing complex analysis from a business perspective while hiding the complexity of underlying data structures. It typically involves analysis of trends and comparisons across business dimensions such as location (state, district, city), time (year, quarter, month), taxes (commercial tax, sales tax, central excise) via analytical operations such as data consolidation, drill-down, and slicing and dicing, OLAP tools allow the user to analyse complex data relationships quickly and easily using historical, projected, and derived data to provide detailed reports. With OLAP tools, users can analyse and navigate through data to discover trends, spot exceptions, and get underlying details to better understand the on-going process. The two forms of analysis most relevant in this context are commonly known as "slice and dice" and "drill-down".

◉| Data Mining
The data mining technology is like extracting gold and is parallel to gold extraction technology. Data mining is based on filtration of 'a mountain of data "ore"', in order to get data "nuggets" and is designed to help organization(s) to discover hidden patterns and to delve deeper to establish hidden connections in organization's data – patterns that can help planners and decision makers to understand the behavior of key users, detect likely trends/growth pattern, predict change(s) in the financial position etc. Data mining helps in managing the business effectively and to gain competitive edge.

◉| Text Mining
Organisations generate, collect and have large volumes of data, which they use in day-to-day operations. These data are mostly in the form of numeric and text. The text-based databases are in various forms, like: emails, Parliament proceedings, Technical/Expert group reports, details about patients and treatments, and court judgements. Many of the organisations are unable to capitalise fully on the value of text data because information implicit in the data is not easy to discuss. The tools used to analyse numeric data cannot be put in to use directly for analysing the text data. The need for tools to deal with such databases are already at large. This implies an opportunity to make more effective use of repositories of business communications, and other unstructured data.

◉| Infrastructure
For any BI system to be successful and sustainable, there is always a need for dedicated network services within the organization and outside for Internet access. As NICNET is operational for long and is stable and being upgraded regularly with newer technologies, the basic need for developing BI applications in the government environment is already in place. The RDBMS and other forms of systems are operational in all major sectors and are being upgraded on a regular basis till the district levels. As the BI solutions and analysis reports will be ultimately used by the top level decision makers in the government, the software and hardware platform on which the BI systems are to be implemented should be capable of handling various issues related to the data warehouse and capable of providing web based solutions. The development of BI applications in the government needs the above

basic infrastructure and NIC has already acquired the state-of-the-art BI tools which are operational at various locations within NIC. In the government domain there are large number of databases being used for various applications and analysis. Also those applications require deriving analytical intelligence objectively within a limited time frame. As a service provider NIC is fully aware of the gap between availability of information and readiness of supplying the information to the decision makers for decision-making at the right time.

◉| Hardware and Software
Today, business intelligence tools access, analyze, and deliver information in the form of metrics to business users through applications like dashboards, reports, or portals. Complete business intelligence solutions have evolved to facilitate collaborative decision-making that fits the needs of business users in various departments and at various levels. BI technology has become a highly integrated and visible component of both the IT infrastructure and business operations even in the government departments. After assessing NIC's existing infrastructure as well as the future needs, state-of-the-art tools covering the major processing areas of Analytical/Business Intelligence viz. ETL, OLAP and Data Mining have been acquired and made available on a client server environment. As a temporary measure, the SAN server at NIC headquarters is being used as BI server as well as production server. The BI division is in the process of acquiring two rack mounted servers and soon the BI tools would be migrated to the new dedicated servers. The server version of the tool is installed on the SAN server machine and the client versions on selective client machines at various locations at the center and some of the identified state units. The architectural details are given at fig-2. Presently 20 clients are authorized to connect to the server besides five for data mining and can use the facilities.

◉| Analytical Intelligence in the Government
Over the years the various application divisions at NIC have compiled and generated large volume of data. This data has been regularly processed and reports are generated as per the needs of the policy planners and decision makers. A large number of application/OLTP systems are running in most of the central and state government ministries and departments of which some of the OLTP applications and the

related databases might play a key role in the policy planning issues pertaining to a sector. Further, as the government departments generally work with less resources and more demand for services, it may be that different departments might work in isolation with almost similar or same set of priorities and goals and spending more to achieve a common objective. In these circumstances, analytical applications can play an important role in the efficient usage of limited resources and offering maximum services to the user. As mentioned earlier, this is possible only by creating a data warehouse and adopting data warehouse

groups will look after the center, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The remaining states will be covered in the second phase. Further, these groups will act as a guiding force in identifying new projects, in resolving issues arising out of these and help in planning and execution of BI projects in the center and state government departments.

⊙| Training of NIC Official
The skill upgrade of the existing NIC professionals has been done at two levels: at

platforms, a number of data warehouses developed jointly with the application divisions. Besides above in order to demonstrate the technology to the end user viz. centre and state government officials a number of demonstrations have been conducted mainly to demonstrate the BI potentials and its requirement in the government environment. Some of the typical data warehouse developments going on in other divisions and state units are: Agriculture Informatics Division, Land Records Division, and Water Resources Division –all at the head quarter, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

⊙| Applications
Though data warehouse applications are not restricted to any particular domain, generally wherever the information has any economic value or influences the financial or economical aspects of the organization, data warehouse can easily fit in to it. Further, any division having large volume of data of either numerical or text or spatial types can go for data warehouse application. The only issue one has to keep in mind is that the department should have sufficient amount of information in their possession with high utility value. Some of the projects taken up in the division include, data marts on – Customs Import, Bhoomi, Socio-economic indicators of UP state, Fertilizer production and consumption, and Export-Import of selective commodities.
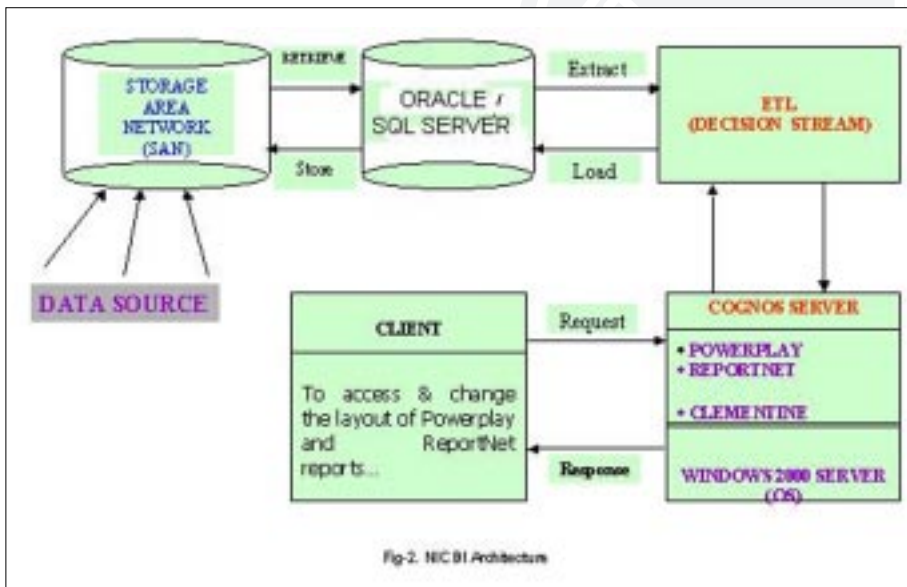

Fig-2. NIC BI Architecture

technology that can play a leading role in giving analytical support to the various levels of planners in the government hierarchy. Data warehouse and Data mining is a perfect means of preparing the government to face the challenges of the next millennium.

⊙| Strengthening the Decision Making Process
In addition to the OLTP applications running at all the levels, analytical intelligence system can be put in at the middle and higher levels so that the analytical information systems help them in the better management of the organization system, its control and monitoring. In order to strengthen the various NIC divisions in this direction, three sub-groups have been formed to explore the possibilities of undertaking BI projects at various divisions in the center and select state units. In the first phase these

the senior level officials and the other for the working level officials. Senior officers have been exposed on all major aspects of analytical intelligence by in-depth exposure on the above-procured tools in a client server environment. Working level officials have been trained in-depth covering basic BI concepts and of the tools and its potentials through live case studies. In addition to the training provided by this division as in the past, have also trained other divisions in building the warehouse. These divisions in turn will train other division officials in undertaking development of data marts or data warehouses for the applications identified in their area of operation.

⊙| Technology Demonstrations
In order to create awareness and to propagate the technology and its advantage, this division is demonstrating at various

⊙| Future Scenario
NIC is on its way to support the government on BI technology so as to make it more powerful in terms of strengthening the decision making process on a near real time basis. All RDBMS systems around NICNET will be brought under the BI technology for the end user to view the multi dimensional perspective of the data as well as the likely scenario for the future. This will improve substantially the power of decision making at all levels in the government hierarchy. Besides, BI systems will lead to feasible planning and input from all levels in the planning and decision-making hierarchy will improve efficiency in the government sector.

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

▶ | *J J R Anand, Goa Correspondent*

GOA : Focussing on E-Gov Solutions

Goa is one of the famous tourist destinations in the world. It is now marching ahead to become one of the IT destinations in the world. The Government and Private entrepreneurs are investing a lot in this direction.

NIC Goa State Center was established in 1989. There are two NIC District Centers in Goa. In 1994 Goa Government Computer Center merged with NIC Goa. Since its inception, NIC Goa is contributing towards usage of IT in day-to-day activities of the Government departments in the State. It has been providing software and hardware support to State and Central Government departments in Goa. The services include Software development, Training, Internet & E-Mail connectivity and Consultancy support. Presently NIC Goa is focusing on E-Governance solutions and also trying its best to offer them at a low-cost by using open source technologies.
The major activities carried out by NIC Goa are as follows: -

◉| **DHARANI**
Goa is the first state in the Country where 100% computerization of Land Records has been done. The Land Records computerization software called DHARANI has been imple-mented in all the Taluka and City Survey Offices of the State. Entire Mutation Process has also

Former Union Minister for Rural Dev. Sh. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurating 'DHARANI' Project

been computerized. The ROR (Record of Rights: Form I & XIV and Form D) are issued instantly across the counter to the public from all the offices and Mahiti Ghars (Information Kiosks). All the offices are inter-connected through a

State Wide Network called GOANET which makes it possible to issue the ROR of any Taluka from any other Taluka or Mahiti Ghars. To ensure data security, Biometric authentication and Role based access measures have been incorporated in the software. Touch Screen based kiosks have also been installed at strategic locations to provide Land Records information in multilingual form to the public.

◉| **Municipal Administration Software (MAS)**
MAS, which consists of different software modules like Birth & Death Registration, House Tax Collection, Lease Rent Collection, Trades and Occupation Licenses and Receipts & Payments has been implemented in all the 13 Municipal Councils in Goa.

MAS helps the Municipal Councils in providing better services to the public. MAS facilitates online registration of Births & Deaths, issuance of Birth & Death Certificates across the counter, easy and faster collection of House Tax, Lease Rent, Trade License fee and Renewal of Licenses. It also helps in timely generation of Tax Bills, Demand and Warrant Notices and in efficient maintenance of Taxpayer wise accounts. Since all the transactions are carried out online, at any given time up-to-date status are available on various parameters. MAS facilitates periodical generation of various types of reports for effective and better administra-tion. To meet the data security requirements, three supplementary software modules namely Counter Services, Data Modification and Super User are provided for secured data modifica-tions and house keeping activities.

◉| **INFOGRAM**
INFOGRAM is an IT based service for rural masses. It is a computerized Service Center that envisages to provide all Government services to citizens at grassroots level in a faster and an efficient manner.

INFOGRAM provides various services like Registration of Birth & Death, House Tax and Light Tax Collection, Lease Rent Collection, Construction Licenses, Trade Licenses. All

transactions are carried out online and hence up-to-date status are available on various parameters.   INFOGRAM also provides services like Issuance of Form I & XIV, Issuance of various certificates like Residence Certificate, Income Certificate, Character Certificate, Caste Certificate etc., Issuance of NOC for Water and Electricity connection. Through INFOGRAM citizens can also get information on Citizen Charters of all Government Departments, BPL Schemes etc.

INFOGRAM has been implemented at 18 Village Panchayats so far and it is being planned to implement INFOGRAM in all the remaining 171 Village Panchayats in Goa in the next two years.

◉| **Accounts Computerization**
Directorate of Accounts (DOA) is the budget controlling Authority for the Government of Goa. DOA has one Head office and one Branch office. There are two District Treasuries and 9 Sub-Treasuries. The Branch office is connected to the Head office through a 2 MBPS leased line where as the District and Sub-Treasuries are connected through 64 KBPS leased lines for faster transfer of data.
The following software systems have been implemented in the DOA to meet all their functional requirements.

◉| **Integrated Bill Processing System**
DOA follows the pre-audit system of accounts wherein the DDO has to submit the bill and get it passed before incurring the expenditure. Integrated Bills Processing System has been designed with a view to process the large volume of bills received at DOA every day. The system has the features to pass/object bills, maintain Budget Control Register (BCR) and print cheques.

◉| **Compilation System**
The purpose of this system is to compile all the ten accounts of DOA. The compilation of accounts is done every month in two stages. Stage I compilation covers the compilation of accounts which are common to Head office and Branch office. Stage II compilation covers compilation of accounts with respect to Head office only. The system has the feature to generate various reports and registers like Facing Sheets (list of Vouchers/Schedules), List of Debit & Credit Vouchers, Compilation Register, TE Register, Classified Receipts & Payments Statement etc.

Informatics

◉| Treasury System

Treasury System has been designed to meet the requirements of the District and Sub-Treasuries in Goa. This system is used to maintain the Receipt & Payment account at the District Treasury/Sub-Treasury level. The details with respect to challans, encashed cheques and payment vouchers are entered in the Treasury System and it has the provision to generate Head-wise Register, Summary Register, Unit-wise Register, Daily Cash Register, Transfer Entry Register, Monthly Account and Reserve Bank Deposit Statement. Presently this system has been implemented in the two District Treasuries and shortly it will be rolled out in the nine Sub-Treasuries.

◉| Works Audit System

Works Audit System consisting of the following modules has been implemented at the Works Audit Section of DOA.

· *WAS-Cash Assignment* has been designed to maintain the details in respect of the cash assignments (both provisional and regular) made to the divisions.
· *WAS-Monthly Accounts* has been designed to maintain the consolidated accounts of the divisions and consolidate further based on the heads of account and to submit the same to Book section for final compilation of Accounts.
· *WAS-Security Deposit* has been designed to maintain the details in respect of the security deposits and the projects undertaken by the works departments.

The Works Audit System provides user-friendly forms to record the transactions and has the facility to generate various reports and registers.

◉| GPF System

There are about 40,000 GPF subscribers in the state of Goa. GPF System has been designed to maintain their accounts up-to-date, which includes monthly subscriptions, advances, refunds, withdrawals, interest calculation and final payment. The GPF System also has the features to generate GPF Slips, employee wise summary statement, statement of interest, DDO wise GPF subscription schemes, various reports and registers.

◉| Advances Management System

Advances Management System has been designed to help the staff at the Loans & Advances Section of DOA to efficiently process the requests for various types of advances like

HBA, MCA, FAN, Cycle etc., and to maintain up-to-date records. Advances Management System has the provision to check for availability of funds, pass the bills for advances, maintain up-to-date employee wise account, close accounts monthly & annually, calculate interest, issue No Dues Certificate and to generate various reports and registers.

The advantages of Computerization of DOA are as follows.
  • Bills are cleared faster.
  • Cheques are issued faster. Reconciliation of cheques are also done effectively.
  • Availability of up-to-date Budget Control Register figures.
  • All the accounts are closed in time.
  • Compilation of various accounts is done faster.
  • Various Accounts Registers and Statements are periodically generated.
  • As the DOA and the District/Sub-Treasuries are interconnected it is possible to provide the up-to-date receipts & payment figures.

◉| Budget Information System

Budget Information System has been implemented in the Finance Department of Goa Secretariat.Through this system the details required to prepare the annual budget are captured and the budget reports are printed. The details captured are: Expenditure estimates for the next year received from various departments, Actual expenditure received from accounts department, Revised estimates for the current year, Recovery details, Receipt Details, Budget Account Head Information and the Supplementary budget requirement details.

With entered details, the budget is compiled and as per the suggested format reports such as Details of expenditure in Grants for each demand, Details of expenditure – Recoveries, Demand for Grants, Estimates of Receipts, Annual Financial Statement, Budget at a Glance and Budget Bill are generated.

◉| Election Information System

The Election Management System (EMS) has been designed to meet the information flow requirements between Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), District Election Officer (DEO) and Returning Officer (RO) / Assistant Returning Officer (ARO).
The requirements are classified into three groups viz., Pre Poll, Poll Day and Post Poll. For Pre Poll, the system has the features to generate various reports with respect to

Ex. Director, Directorate of Accounts, Sh. G K Warrior signing the first computerized cheque

Nomination, Polling Station & Voters information, Randomized batch & booth formation etc., For the Poll Day, the information like Voters turnout, Percentage of votes polled etc., can be processed. For the Post Poll, the system provides facility to process information on counted votes.

This system has been successfully used in Assembly Elections 2002, Parliamentary Elections 2004, 'Zilla Parishad' Elections 2005 and Assembly By-Elections 2005.

◉| SGSY Management System

SGSY Management System (SMS) is a browser-based system deployed at DRDA North & South Goa to meet the requirements in respect of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) scheme. This system streamlines the workflow followed to process SGSY applications for credit-cum-subsidy assistance. The applications recommended by BDO are entered in the system, after scrutiny at various levels. Assistant Project Officer, Accounts Officer and Bank can recommend or reject the application. If the application is recommended then the forwarding letter is generated. The system has the provision to generate various reports and registers like Subsidy Register, Beneficiary Register, Register of Recommended Cases, Cheque Issue Register etc.

◉| Public Grievances Redressal Monitoring System (PGRMS)

PGRMS is implemented at the Directorate of Public Grievances, Government of Goa. This easy-to-use system enables the Directorate to quickly redress the grievances reported by the citizens against any service delivered by State Government departments. The response period for each grievance can be individually set depending upon the nature of grievance. PGRMS provides facility for petition registration, generation of initial letter and reminders and status updation. The system also has features

Informatics

for generating various reports like List of pending grievances, List of closed grievances, Petition Register etc.

◉| MPLAD System

MPLAD System has been designed to monitor the progress of works under MP Local Area Development scheme. This system has provision to collect information on work particulars, administrative and technical sanctions, tender particulars and amounts sanctioned. Also, it has provision to maintain information on funds received from Government and released for the works. Various letters, orders and reports required at different stages can be generated from the system.

◉| Provident Fund System

Provident Fund System has been designed to meet the requirements with respect to management of Provident Fund (General and Contributory) of the employees of the Municipal Councils in Goa. Presently it is implemented at the Municipal Corporation of Panaji, Goa. The system has the provision to create subscriber's accounts (GPF & CPF), update subscribers' monthly contributions and refunds (GPF & CPF) figures, release of advances and withdrawals, close yearly accounts etc. The system also has provision to generate various reports like Nomination details, Contributions & refunds for a given period, Sanctioned Advances, Sanctioned Withdrawals, GPF/CPF Slip, Authority letter, GPF/CPF Ledger, GPF/CPF Broadsheet etc.

◉| High Court Touch Screen Kiosk

A Touch Screen Information Kiosk has been setup in the Panaji Bench of Bombay High Court to provide information to the public on Final Orders, Farad Orders, Judgements, Acts, Rules & Regulations, Court fees etc. The Touch Screen Kiosk software provides the citizens a very user-friendly query feature so that the user can query on various parameters like Case

Justice Sh. Prasannakumar Vinayak Kakade at the inauguration of Touch Screen Kiosk at the Panaji Bench of Bombay High Court

Number, Party Name, Advocate, Order Date etc. The Touch Screen Kiosk is in regular use since its inauguration in 2002.

◉| Other Projects

Other than the above, NIC Goa has also implemented various systems at many Government departments and in District Colletorates in the state which are as follows:-
- Vehicles Monitoring System
- Quarters Monitoring System
- Stores Management System
- Bill Processing System
- Arms License System
- Court Cases Monitoring System
- Payroll
- Water Billing System
- Cabinet Decision Monitoring System
- Students Information System

◉| Central Projects

Necessary support is being given to the following projects from NIC Goa:
- High Court
- District Courts
- Regional Passport Office
- Registrar of Companies
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade
- Customs House
- Airport Immigration

◉| Websites

NIC Goa has developed and hosted several Websites for State and Central Government departments which are hosted at NIC Data Center in Delhi. Updations are done using remote updation facilities from user departments and NIC Goa Centre. Following is the list of some websites developed by NIC Goa.

- **http://goagovt.nic.in**
The Official website of Government of Goa.
- **http://goaresults.nic.in**
Examination Results website.
- **http://rdagoa.nic.in**
Rural Development Department.
- **http://ruralbazargoa.nic.in**
Rural Development Agencies.
- **http://nothgoa.nic.in** and
- **http://southgoa.nic.in**
District Collectorates
- **http://hcbombayatgoa.nic.in**
High Court of Bombay at Goa
- **http://slsagoa.nic.in**
State Legal Services.

◉| Goanet & SAN

In the age of Internet, it is necessary to disseminate online information and services to the citizens. With this requirement in mind, NIC Goa has designed and implemented a State Wide Area Network called GOANET jointly with the Govt. of Goa, which has provided the required Computer hardware and Networking equipments. The recurring leased line charges are borne by Govt. of Goa. NIC Goa maintains the GOANET.

GOANET interconnects many Govt. offices and Mahiti Ghars (Information Kiosks) for the purpose of sharing information. The District Headquarters are connected via 2 MBPS leased line whereas other places are connected via 64 KBPS leased lines. Currently various services like Issuance of Form I & XIV, Form D and Learners License are being offered via GOANET.

In the near future NIC Goa will be implementing the SWAN Project of Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, thereby enhancing GOANET.

Storage Area Network (SAN) with 1 TB Disk space has also been installed in Goa to meet the data storage and backup requirements.

◉| Training

NIC Goa has a separate Training Section with one class room and another room for practical sessions. The training infrastructure includes twenty Client systems and one LCD Projector. Training programmes are conducted regularly throughout the year. The training is imparted on Introduction to Computers, Windows 2000, Open Office, Internet and E-Mail. So far over 3500 Officers/Staff of the Central and State Government departments have been trained through 175 training programmes.

For more information, contact
State Informatics Officer
NIC Goa State Unit
Paraiso de Goa, H-Block, Alto Porvorim
Panaji, Goa.

email: **sio@goa.nic.in**

▷ *Vivek Atray, Director Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration*

eSampark : Multi Service Project of Chandigarh Administration

The vision of Chandigarh Administration is to create a knowledge-based society through extensive use of ICT. As a key initiative to achieve this objective, the Administration has decided to set-up Electronic Citizen Service Centers across the city. This initiative is named as **Project eSampark**. The project aims to bring together all the departments under one single umbrella and give citizens of Chandigarh a *"multi-service" – "single-window"* experience. The ultimate objective is to use ICT as a medium for effective interaction between the Administration and the public so that exchange of information and access to Chandigarh Administration departments is speedy and easy.

◉| **Strategic Planning and Implementation**
Success of eSampark project initiated by Chandigarh is the result of strong planning and a phased implementation strategy adopted by Administration. Studies were conducted to understand the best practices across such projects. A framework was drafted for the initiative based on which the strategies were defined for participation of the partner departments, selection of technology, public partner, financial partner etc. The Department of IT has been the main facilitator to integrate the existing Citizen Services application developed by NIC and BOT operators. To ensure clarity, the roles and responsibilities of various agencies involved in the project were well defined from the beginning itself. While the Overall Ownership & Administration are under Department of IT, Process Re-engineering is handled by Participating Departments. NIC looks after Technical Support, Network & Data Center whereas Front-end Operations and Banking & Payment Gateway are under the purview of SQL Star and UTI Bank respectively.

The most critical aspect of the project has been the continuity of the services to the citizens of Chandigarh. Therefore a parallel path strategy was adopted which meant continuing the traditional service centers in parallel to the eSampark centers so that in case of any failure, there is no disruption in the services to the citizen. Following services were selected for the first phase:
· Payment of Electricity Bills
· Payment of Water Bills
· Payment of Traffic Challans
· Payment of Taxes
· Issue of Bus Passes
· Space Booking (Municipal Corporation)
· Birth & Death Certificates
· Senior Citizen Cards
· Disability Card
· Passport Applications
· Tenant/Servant Registration

There are eight eSampark centers planned to be in place with around 32 service counters spread across the city, out of which six are operational. Each center operates from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Monday to Saturday. All the centers are connected with Network and Data Center set up by NIC. It not only provides the Online Transaction Processing through its centers and web-enabled portal (http://chandigarh.gov.in) but also is a major source of information dissemination. Online Payment Gateway for making payments using UTI Bank Debit Card and any Credit Card is also available through the portal. All operations in eSampark are executed as per the defined standards i.e. naming of the register, file to review of a passport application, execution of an enquiry to the cash handling procedure etc.

◉| **Post Implementation Analysis**
A well-structured PR strategy has been adopted and Chandigarh Administration issues press releases from time to time informing citizens about the eSampark services. A handbook providing detailed information on eSampark processes has also been published. In order to serve the citizens better, a Citizen Satisfaction survey was conducted. After six months of operation the objective was to understand the citizen requirement, get their feedback and then improve the services provided at the existing centers as well as at the upcoming centers. Today eSampark is a 'One-stop-shop' for over 11 G2C services through 6 eSampark Centers. In a short span of 6 months, the transactions number has increased from zero to 65,000 from the eSampark centers. In next two months 2 additional such centers have been planned by Chandigarh Administration. Besides this, as a next phase of the project, it is envisaged to introduce non government services as part of the project such as phone bills etc which are expected to increase the transactions manifolds.

These results have been achieved based on the state-of-the-art technology, robust infrastructure, citizen facilities available at these centers and above all, process reengineering. The facilities provided by the eSampark centers has relieved the citizens of Chandigarh from the hardships of standing in long queues or visiting the government offices many times to get their job done. eSampark project has also increased transparency and improved flow of information relating to the citizen services provided by the government. Now on an average a service from eSampark center is delivered in few minutes without any inconvenience.

Chandigarh Administration has already started next phase of the project called 'Jan Sampark' that would be implemented in each sector. The aim is to provide IT based services to citizens who do not have access to computers.

E-Sampark Counter at Sector 10, Chandigarh

The eSampark Project won the Golden Icon Award for 'Professional Excellence for Process Reengineering' in the 8th National E-Governance Conference held at Bhubaneswar in February this year.

For details, please mail to
dit@chd.nic.in

▷ *Ajay Singh Chahal, HP correspondent*

UNA : Reaching New Vistas of ICT

Informatics

Una, a district of Himachal Pradesh, covers an area of 1,540 sq. Kms and lies in the south western part of the state. It is 240 Kms from Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh and was formed on 1st September, 1972.

ICT related activities in Una got a boost with the establishment of District Unit of National Informatics Centre in 1989.

Deputy Commissioners have been a guiding force in promoting Government to Citizen Services (G2C) in the district with the association of NIC. Recently an E-Governance Society has been established for implementing and monitoring IT-related projects in the various offices of the district and generating sufficient funds for sustaining such projects.

The prestigious ICT projects in the District which were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State during the past few years include:
- E-Governance Centre, Una
- Touch screen based E-Kiosk for various services
- Land Record Computerisation Tehsil Bangana
- Touch screen based E-Kiosk for DRDA Una
- Official website of district Una http://hpuna.nic.in

Last year, Hon'ble CM presented commendation certificates to Sh. Dharmesh Kumar, DIO & Sanjeev Kumar, DIA for their commitment to reach new vistas of IT-enabled government services in the district.

Feathers in the Cap...
Some of the major activities accomplished by NIC Una include:
- **E-Governance Centre :** Services like issuance of driving licenses, registration certificates and passport applications etc. have been brought on a common platform. SARTHI and VAHAN software developed by NIC for the transport sector have been implemented at the center.
- **Touch Screen based E-Kiosk for Multiple Services:** The touch screen based E-Kiosks are currently providing services like Driving license application status, Vehicle registration application status, Electoral list, Blood donors list, Passport application status, Results of HP School Education Board, Welfare schemes, Railway and bus time tables, Information about Una district, Tourist places etc.
- **Results through Facilitation Counters:** Three Result Facilitation Counters have been established in addition to the touch screen based E-Kiosk at the DC office complex to show the results of HP Education Boards Dharamsala (8th to 10+2) free of cost to the students.
- **Land Record Computerisation:** With the launch of HimBhoomi software developed by NIC HP State Centre, the tehsil Bangana has been made online and computer generated copies of jamabandis are being made available to public.
- **E-Vikas Project:** With this project, information regarding activities of DRDA has been made available on Touch Screen Kiosk. These services include information regarding works/beneficiaries under Watershed Development Programme, Indira Awas Yojna, Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojna, Sampooran Gramin Rozgar Yojna, Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna.
- **Online Press Releases:** Press releases of the DPRO office on website http://hpuna.nic.in has been started with an aim to provide daily official press releases in its original form to the public.
- **Online Treasury Information System:** The District Treasury Una went online with the inauguration of the new software OLTIS (Online Treasury Information System), which is based on the work-flow of the Treasuries and data is captured right from the Token stage to its final passing. Besides, linkages have been provided for AG office Voucher Level Computerisation, LIC data requirements and departmental budgetary controls.
- **District Official Website:** The official website of district Una http://hpuna.nic.in has been developed and maintained by NIC Una.
- **Welfare Office Computerisation:** The department is benefitting immensely from computerization as the software helps in maintaining pensioner's details, ledgers and printing money orders & pensioner's lists as well as issuing disability certificates to the disabled persons.
- **Collectorate Computerisation:** All the branches of D.C. office have been computerized and various MIS software

implemented such as Reference Monitoring, Copying Branch, Cash Counter, Schemes Monitoring etc.
- **Computerisation of District Court:** With the implementation of DCIS software, all the cases filed during the day are entered into the system and the database is up-to-date. Apart from the case details, the daily proceedings of the court are also entered.
- **Election Computerization:** During election time, district administration uses NIC Una as District Election Computer Centre under the supervision of DIO for computerizing all election related activities.
- **Local Area Network:** LAN has been established in the Mini Secretariat connecting DC Office, SP Office, DRDA, DPRO, District Court, etc. with the servers of the NIC District Centre and Internet connectivity has been provided to each officer through DirecWay VSAT. Paybills of 15 departments of the district are also being generated at NIC, Una.

NIC Una District Unit
District Informatics Officer
Dharmesh Kumar
District Informatics Associate
Sanjeev Kumar

For further details please mail to
ajay@hp.nic.in

▷ *Anshu Rohatgi, UP Correspondent*

SITAPUR : Empowering Rural Masses through 'Lokvani'

Sitapur

Situated on the banks of river 'Sarayan', 89 Km. from Lucknow, Sitapur was established by King Vikarmaditya after the name of Lord Ram's wife Sita. The township holds an important place in ancient, medieval and modern history. Famous all across the world for its Eye Hospital, the district is once again in the national & international limelight for its Project **'Lokvani'.**

◉| NIC In Sitapur

Established in the year 1988 for providing computer network to the District Administration and to promote computer awareness among Government Departments, the district center of NIC has left no stone unturned to spread IT at the grass roots level.

◉| Milestones

Some of the milestone projects that have gone a long way in bridging the digital divide -
- Lokvani Project
- Dissemination of Land Records data through Internet etc.
- Installation of OFC based Campus Area Network connecting NIC District Center with District Treasury, Office of CDO, Sadar Tehsil, saving office etc.
- Establishment of DAMA based Video Conferencing facility.
- Provision of Internet to all the clients of Collectorate & Tehsil offices.

◉| Lokvani Project

The Lokvani project is a rural-centric application conceived by Sh. Amod Kumar, District Magistrate, Sitapur & National Informatics Centre, UP. It is an e-Governance initiative for transparent, time bound and accountable redressal of Public Grievances. The initiative is not only giving a practical shape to the Right to Information Act, it is also creating job opportunities for the educated but unemployed youth of Sitapur. Lokvani provides a unique opportunity for the citizens to interact with the government without visiting any government

office. A special Lokvani Hub has been setup at the collectorate and cyber cafes, computer centers across the district/ tehsils which are authorized by the Lokvani Society for registering complaints. These Centres are called **Lokvani Centers**, and their number is increasing day-by-day.

There are several government services offered through Lokvani Centres such as Land Records, Details of GPF, Pension, Development schemes, Forms, Scholarships, Allotment of food grains, Arms license application status etc. However, the most popular service till date has been Online Public Grievance Redressal. The Lokvani system not only gives citizens an avenue to track the progress on their grievance, but also provides the DM with an effective tool to monitor the performance of various departments.

Lokvani Interface can be accessed at www.sitapur.nic.in/lokvani

◉| Other Important Applications

NIC Sitapur, as a premier IT Consultant at the district has initiated and implemented many projects as a part of its constant endeavor to bring about total computerization in district administration -
- **District Treasury Computerisation -** all the major functions, like Payment, Receipts, PLA, CCL, GIS etc. are computerized.
- **Land Records Computerisation -** all the tehsils are providing computerized 'Nakal Khatauni Khata' to the public and online

mutations are being carried out.
- **District Court Computerisation** – database of more than 64,000 cases has been developed, generation of cause list, updation of case details is being carried out.
- **Payroll & Pension Management System** for Education Department.
- **Arms Licensing computerization**.

Many other applications have been implemented for departments such as DRDA, DESTO, NSSO, SSP Office, Election Office etc. and regular trainings are being held to update the skills of the officers/officials of the district in the field of IT. However, the endeavor of using IT for a better tomorrow does not end here. NIC, Sitapur is continuously trying to explore new areas where computerization will help Government as well as the common public. The sincere efforts of NIC, Sitapur have paid rich dividends not only in terms of accolades it has received but also the fact that district administration has realized the importance of ICT. The work culture too is fast changing with the advent of recent e-governance solutions.

◉| Future Plans
- Installation of touch screen kiosks
- Introduction of IVRS based solutions for general public
- Delivery of Authentic copy of Land records at doorstep of customers through courier.

Regarding the contribution of the NIC District Center, District Magistrate, Sitapur says, "NIC Sitapur is playing an important role in the field of IT. Its officers are doing their best efforts in implementing the concept of e-governance in the district. Lokvani is the real example of e-governance."

NIC Sitapur District Unit
District Informatics Officer
Amar Pal Singh
District Informatics Associate
Md. Sibtain

For further details please mail to
sit@up.nic.in

▷ | *B. Koti Reddy, NIC HQ*

ICT at the Central Excise Department

Informatics

The Central Excise is under the administrative control of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), which comes under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. For administrative control of the Excise Department, the country is divided into Zones headed by a Chief Commissioner of Central Excise and the Zones are further divided into Commissionerates and are headed by a Commissioner of Central Excise. Divisions and Ranges are subsequent field formations of the department.

Central Excise duty is an indirect tax levied on goods manufactured in India.

CBEC entrusted NIC with the job of computerization of Central Excise Commissionerates (CECs) and Divisions all over India in the year 1991. NIC took up the job and designed, developed and implemented various modules one after another. Various modules developed and running currently are:

◉| **System for Excise Revenue Monitoring: SERMON**
For Compilation of Central Excise Tax and its monitoring, the Excise Computerisation Divison of NIC has developed a software package called SERMON. Currently the upgraded version of SERMON 5i is in use under Linux platform with Oracle 9i as back end and JAVA as front end.

◉| **System for Allotment of Central Excise Registration Number: SACER**
This package registers all the Manufacturers and allots a unique 15-digit code on the basis of PAN code of Income Tax Department. A huge database of all Manufacturers and Dealers in India is available on Central Server and any authorized user can access this information. Multiple units owned by the same Manufacturer can be tracked irrespective of geographical location even if they have not disclosed it.

◉| **Revenue Accounting System: RevAct.**
This package monitors the revenue receipts paid through TR6 challan in public sector banks by the Manufacturers. To process all these challans and to ensure proper revenue receipt

accounting, the RevAct package has been developed and implemented at all commissionerates in India.

◉| **Revenue Reconciliation: RevCon**
RevCon is used in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer (CAO) of the Central Excise Commissionerate to validate the data related to the original copy of TR-6 challan received from RevAct package with the data of duplicate TR-6 challan received from Range office using SERMON package.

◉| **System for Allotment of PAN based Service Tax Payer Code: SAPS**
This package registers all service taxpayers in India and also allots a unique identification number as per the CBEC policy. In this Package a huge database is available of all service providers in India.

◉| **Service Tax Return Monitoring System: STREMS**
CBEC can monitor the service tax collection for any particular Commissionerate and for any specified period. The software has a facility to calculate to know the tax collected on a particular category of service. Software is tuned to take care of increasing service tax categories as per Government policies.

◉| **E-filing of Service Tax Returns: e-STAX**
e-STAX (e-filing of Service Tax Return) has been designed and developed for electronic filing of service tax returns (ST-3) by the assessees through the internet. This will help the Department in monitoring the revenue generated through Service Tax. Data can be directly fed by the assessee, which saves time.

◉| **Provisional Assessment Monitoring System: PAMS**
When there is a disagreement between the assessee and the CBEC officials on the amount of duty, then the assessment is done provisionally. To monitor all such cases and to keep track of the amount blocked because of Provisional Assessment, a software package is developed called Provisional Assessment Monitoring Systems or PAMS.

Central Excise computerization software being demonstrated by the NIC Team at ELITEX 2005

◉| **Electronic Departmental Communication System: e-decs**
e-decs is a database oriented structured electronic communication system. The e-decs is a closed communication system and only the users of e-decs can exchange messages to each other. Each message generates a unique identification number (message id) for future reference. The users can recall the message by giving this message id. It has facility to send a message to individual user or user class. Only one copy of the message resides in the server even though message is addressed to many users. More details are available on the following websites:
• http://sermon.nic.in
• http://exciseandservicetax.nic.in

◉| **Cyber Revenue Realisation Summary: CRRS**
The CBEC gets tentative revenue details from its CECs to monitor the revenue targets. This information was being received through fax or by telephone, which are prone to data errors and incomplete information. To overcome this problem NIC has developed the above web-based package for capturing data on the central server.

◉| **All India Sermon Database**
The excise return data is stored at central server and is available on 24x7 basis. Several user groups have been formed to view the data from the Range-Division-Commissionerate-Zone to all India level. At present permissions are given to the users to view their jurisdiction data only.

◉| **e-filing of Central Excise Returns.**
The CBEC has decided to receive the excise documents electronically using the Internet. As on today, the assessees file their excise returns manually to the concerned Range offices and subsequently, the department enters these returns into the system using

▷ *Dr. Meenakshi Mahajan, I.P.S Sethi & Alka Mishra, NIC HQ*

Capacity Building Under
HRD Programme in Lao PDR

learn the tools more effectively. Assignments given to participants have helped them to better understand the concepts. Participants showed keen interest in learning about ICT Tools and were quite sincere and regular despite an initial language barrier.

Lao PDR, with a population of 5,218,000, is a small country in the Southeast Asia. Under the International Technical Exchange Cooperation Programme of Government of India, NIC has entered into an MoU on ICT Cooperation with Government of Lao PDR, according to which nine areas of cooperation are to be implemented with funding from Ministry of External Affairs.
In the first phase, NIC has taken up implementation of first two project Components:
• Setting up of ICT Training Lab
• Capacity Building through Human Resource Development
Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Natwar Singh inaugurated the State-of-the-Art ICT Training Lab, at Science, Technology and Environment Agency, Vientiane, in November 2004. At that time, the training of first batch of 30 Government Officials of Lao PDR was conducted by NIC. Following this, four more batches of 30 officials each, were imparted training in Office Productivity Tools. These training programmes

were conducted by NIC during Jan 17-Feb 11, 2005.

Training Methodology and Feedback
Imparting training to Lao PDR Officials had been an enjoyable and learning experience for NIC faculty. Participants appreciated the On-line Teaching methodology with parallel Hands-on Sessions. This has enabled them to


Certificate distribution ceremony

Some of the compliments given by the participants are....
• Excellent Training, good practice session, nice support and good lecture.
• A well planned training with good course material.
• Thank you for your kindness to teach Lao People to know more about computers
• Very good training for someone who does not know anything
• It has trained me to use computers more effectively and efficiently
• Training will help me in my Office work to manage the files in a better way, to communicate with people and for good presentation.
• Training will help me to work in the areas, which I have not used before.
• All the teachers very nice, patient to take care of the students. Although it is difficult to communicate but you try to make us understand clearly. Thank You!
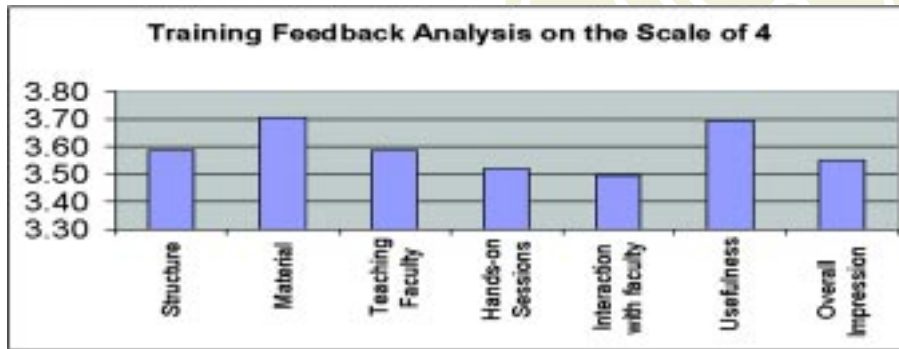
According to Vientiane Times, *"This Cooperation Programme will go a long way in strengthening the LAO PDR with respect to ushering in digital opportunities for economic growth, poverty reduction, employment generation, sustainable resource use, and managing globalization as Lao PDR is one amongst the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This will be a step towards reducing poverty, managing globalization, and establishing an e-society in Lao PDR."*

For details, please mail to
meenakshi.mahajan@nic.in

the SERMON software. This process is prone to delays and data errors. A new, web enabled software *'e-filing of Excise Returns'* has been developed and released for making the process fool proof.

◉| **Capturing of Excise Return Data of Top Revenue Paying Assessees:**
The CBEC has felt that, the data pertaining to the major assessees who pays duty of more than

rupees one crore, should be captured on the central server for effective and immediate revenue analysis. For this purpose, the electronic filing software has been enhanced, so that each division can directly do the data entry of Returns of top revenue paying assessee, onto the central server. Along with this an exhaustive MIS module was incorporated for revenue analysis purpose. The main features are:
• Facility for the departmental officers to do data entry using e-filing software

• Exhaustive MIS
• Revenue explorer for drill down reports
• Revenue trend analysis
• Drilling down to identify the assessees with abnormal trend of revenue
• Defaulters list
• Facility to download the data and integrate with the offline version of the software

For details, please mail to
cexffrig@excise.nic.in

▶ *Rajnish Mahajan & Manoj P A, NIC Gujarat*

Sub Registrar Offices Computerization in Gujarat

May 1, 2005 is a ReD-letter day in the history of the Superintendent of Stamps and Inspector General of Registration department in Gujarat. It was on this day the Hon'ble Revenue Minister of Gujarat Sh. Kaushikbhai Patel inaugurated the project of computerization of Sub Registrar offices in the 7-corporation areas. This covers 25 offices.

A new look Sub Registrar office equipped with new furniture, computer hardware and facilities for public comfort was inaugurated on this day at Bhavnagar, a corporation area in the Sourashtra region of Gujarat.

◉ | The Project

This project of Revenue Department is novel in many ways. The main objective of the project is to serve the public in the process of registration within minimum possible time with full transparency. It is planned to give back the registered document to the party within an hour of presentation to the Sub Registrar. It is also the first time that the process is outsourced except the application software. The application software **ReD (Registration of Documents)** is designed and developed by National Informatics Centre. Private vendors are assigned with the job of supplying and maintaining necessary hardware, systems software, furniture, required stationary and data operators on a revenue sharing basis. Based on the tender process, the 7-corporation areas are alloted to 3 different vendors.

◉ | ReD software

The backbone of the project is the application software designed and developed by NIC. As in case of many other major projects of the revenue department like Land Records (Bhu-Lekh) etc., in this case also the Government put trust on NIC to provide the application software and hence excluded this from outsourcing.

ReD is a comprehensive software developed to cover all the process of registration from presentation and registration fee receipt generation to scanning and printing the record copy of the registered document and archiving the document images.

◉ | Objective

• Return of the original document immediately after registration; within 1 hour
• Transparent process
• Availability of Stamp Duty and Market Value on Internet / Intranet.
• Modernization of the Sub Registrar Offices
• Public comfort at SR offices

◉ | Features of ReD

• Introduced an input sheet to be filled in by the party and verified by the Sub Registrar for easy data entry by the operator
• Jantri Module (Market value details are available)
• Registration Module
• Valuation Module
• Calculation of Stamp Duty
• Photo capturing of the parties using web camera
• Bio-Metric (Finger print capture)
• Scanning Module for scanning all the pages of a document
• CD Backup for database and archival of scanned images of a document
• Bilingual User Interface (Gujarati & English)
• Document Number issued by computer and fee receipt is also generated
• Market Value & Stamp Duty Calculation as per laid down rules and Jantri (Land Rate)
• On the spot generation of Ganatri Patrak (calculation sheet) and Notice 3(2) for deficit amount
• All endorsements are generated and attached to the original document
• System generates Indices viz., Index 2, Index 3, Index 4, CTS Patrak and various other administrative reports.
• User friendly menu driven software for easy operation
• Help at each and every level
• Data Security
• Web based application for determination of Stamp Duty and Market Value

◉ | Infrastructure required:

Hardware: Pentium IV (1 Server and 2 Clients / SR office), Scanner, Laser Printer and Dot Matrix Printer, Web Camera, Biometric control (Finger print), CD Writer Software: Windows XP/2000, MS-SQL Server 2K database

◉ | Future scope of ReD:

• Digital transfer of the pending documents to the Deputy Collector (Stamps).
• State database of registered documents
• Marriage registration information on the net

Inspector General of Registration and Superintendent of Stamps Sh. H B Varia explaining the system to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Govt.of Gujarat and Sh. Rajendrasinh Rana, MP of Bhavnagar.

For details, please mail to
manoj.pa@guj.nic.in

▶ *Mahalakshmi Narayanan, NIC Tamil Nadu*

GIS Using Open Source Software

GIS has become an indispensable tool for managing, analyzing and decision making, by seamlessly combining both spatial and non-spatial data. The growth of Open Source Software (OSS) in the GIS arena has been sky-rocketing for obvious reasons. Distributed data environments, widespread deployment of custom software and strong in-house skills can be realised through the OSS.

◎| Desktop Tools
Open Source GIS currently fall under two categories viz. C and Java. GRASS, Thuban, uDig, JUMP/JCS, OpenMap, fGIS, Mapbender, Gratis are a few tools available as Desktop versions. While some of these tools enable viewing of spatial data as "GIS viewers" only, others provide editing capabilities and some are good at processing/analysing GIS data. Java Topology Suite enables open GIS Geometries and Methods in the Java domain. OpenEV, QGIS, fGIS, Thuban are all viewers in the C Category. OpenMap, JUMP/JCS, uDig and GeoServer are based on Java Topology Suite (JTS). Of these, GRASS provides excellent editing and analysing capabilities and enables PostGIS tables' storage/retrieval.

◎| Spatial Database Servers
Spatial data in many GIS software are stored in the form of flat files. Internet/Intranet/LAN based geographical data services involve management and sharing of both spatial and non-spatial (attribute) data. If spatial data could also be managed in an RDBMS environment similar to non-spatial data, it would allow:
- Easy storage/retrieval of spatial data
- Spatial data sharing across many applications possible
- Easier backup/restoration (maintenance)
- Efficient development and deployment of GIS applications.

The extension for storage of spatial data in RDBMS is provided by the two popularly known open source database servers: MySQL spatial extension and PostgreSQL/PostGIS extension. They also provide conversion utilities that export/import spatial data in the popular "shape" format to MySQL - spatial table or PostgreSQL/PostGIS table.

◎| Web GIS Servers
For web enabling GIS data and applications, a GIS Server that understands spatial data is required that runs in-sync with the Web Server. University of Minnesota's MapServer, University of Bonn's DeeGree, JTS based GeoServers are a few quite popular open source GIS Servers. Of these, MapServer is supported by many Rapid Application Development tools like MapLab, Chameleon and ROSA Applet viewer, MapScript in PHP, Perl, Python and Java environments. MapServer also supports OGR vector formats, GDAL raster formats and on the fly projection support.

◎| Conversion Tools
Interoperability in GIS had been a major concern for GIS community. FW Tools under OpenEV supports conversion of spatial data from most of the standard GIS software to another including OSS (PostgreSQL/PostGIS) formats.

◎| Simple Features Specification for SQL
The JTS is an API of 2D spatial predicates and functions. It conforms to the Simple Features Specification for SQL published by the Open GIS Consortium and provides a complete, consistent, robust implementation of fundamental 2D spatial algorithms. GEOS (Geometry Engine - Open Source) is a C++ port of the JTS. This also includes all the OpenGIS - Simple Features Specifications for SQL, spatial predicate functions and spatial operators, as well as specific JTS topology functions.

◎| Open Source GIS Implementation at NIC
The RS & GIS division at NIC HQ is equipped with the required infrastructure to create and process spatial information. In-house software development program is supported in parallel for the products such as GISNIC, IPSNIC and GeoNIC to provide a low cost solution to meet the GIS needs in various sectors. At NIC, Chennai, GIS Solutions for Internet based applications have been explored and implemented using OSS. Two

websites that have been launched with GIS solutions using Open Source are http://www.census.tn.nic.in and http://www.animaldiseaseinfo.tn.nic.in. The Census 2001 website includes the voluminous and valuable Primary Census Abstract, Disabled Population Data, Religion wise Population Data and Age wise Population Data. In the website, dynamic mapping and charting facility is included with PCA data, Disabled Population data and Housing & Households data apart from tabular data retrieval. The user can customize the map (for the ranges, colours, legends and titles) and get the output map in the required format. UMN MapServer GIS Server, PHP/MapScript and ROSA Applet were used for building the dynamic GIS pages in the website. Figure below shows a dynamic thematic map generated from Census 2001 PCA data.
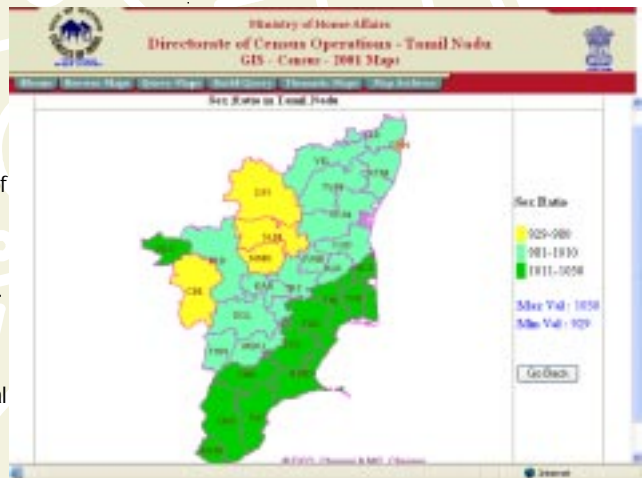
◎| Conclusion
A well-knit user community which helps developer through mailing lists shreds the apprehensions on OSS. The large portion of the costs incurred by an organization embarking on a GIS implementation, are in data conversion, hardware, software, system implementation and customization. By leveraging OSS, any organization can reap the benefits of cost effective implementations and subsequent maintenance. By hosting Internet/Intranet GIS applications, it is possible to provide planners, research scholars, administrators and others to use GIS technology as a decision support tool for the upliftment of the society in general and for better utilization of all resources.

For further details, please mail to
tngis@tn.nic.in

▷ *Dipankar Ghosh, NIC Siliguri*

USB Port and Portable Drives

Most of the Computers available nowadays are equipped with USB ports. **USB** stands for **U**niversal **S**erial **B**us and is a hardware interface for low speed peripheral devices. The USB ports have a very versatile utility and they support wide ranging hardware types like Web or Digital cameras, Scanner, Printer, Modem, key board, mouse etc. A very exciting attribute of USB ports is that many types of Portable Hard Drives and storage devices can be attached with it. The peripheral devices are attached to the computer via USB cord, which has two types of ports *i.e.* A-type and B-type. A-type ports are thin rectangular in shape. The B-Type port is at the end of the Peripheral Devices, and connects it to the USB port of the computer.

Previously USB 1.0/1.1 was used which had data transfer rate of 1.5 Mbps to 12 Mbps. With the advancement of technology USB 2.0 is now being used that has data transfer rate of 480 Mbps. A unique feature of the USB port is that by using USB Hub, more than 125 peripheral devices can be attached to the computer simultaneously. USB 1.0/1.1 uses total 12 Mbps of bandwidth for fast speed devices and USB 2.0 uses total bandwidth of 480 Mbps for such devices. Otherwise, there is also a facility that allows sharing of total bandwidth between all the devices, which are attached to different USB ports and or USB Hub of the computer.

The low power required by the USB device is supplied by the USB port of the computer itself, enabling many peripherals to operate without the added need for an AC power adapter or extra power supply unit.

A special feature that makes USB port very user friendly is the Hot Swap Capability. Hot Swap Capability allows the devices to be plugged in to the computer without shutting it down. Another advantage of the USB devices is that most of them are plug and play *i.e.* no driver software is required to initialize them for Operating Systems Win-2000 and above and Win-XP.

◉| **Portable Hard Drives**
Portable Hard Drives are external storage drives that are plugged in to USB port. These devices are very handy and are easy to carry along. A very wide variety of the portable storage devices are available in the market depending on their physical size and data storage capacity. The dimension of these drives generally range from 1.5-3.5 inches in length, 1-1.5 inches wide and 0.30-1.0 inches thick. Some of the portable drives available nowadays are Pen Drive, Key Chain Drive, Thumb Drive, Wrist Watch Drive, Mini Vault etc. The capacity varies from 8 MB to 2 GB and even up to 250 GB.

Some latest outside-the-box peripherals have storage capacity up to a whopping 400 GB or more. These drives enable external data storage and convenient transportation and sharing of large, critical data files. Simply connect the device to any PC USB port and instantly gain access to vast gigabytes of data. With hot-swap capability, one can plug and play without rebooting or opening the computer. This has made storing and sharing of presentations, digital movies, photographs, music, games and back-up data very simple and easy.

The latest portable drives are ideal in speed and size and are designed to take advantage of USB 2.0 speed, with data transfer rates up to 40 times faster than USB 1.1 devices. In addition, these devices are backward compatible with PCs and peripherals equipped with USB 1.1 ports. Moreover, some manufacturers have launched portable drives with strong password protection facility for data security. The Portable USB drives are suitable and easy to use for people who regularly work on more than one PC that are not connected via network. Students in large institutions or people in an office who need to transfer large amount of data regularly from one computer to another find these portable drives a boon for their work.

For more information, please mail to
wbslg@hub2.nic.in

Informatics

CYBER GOVERNANCE

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

http://www.aghry.nic.in

AG Office, Haryana : Under a plan to modernize the functioning of AG Office, Haryana, a website providing information on the Provident Fund and pension related activities of the state employees has been launched. The website that is developed by NIC Haryana provides information regarding GPF, loan, Pension, forms etc. to benefit in-service as well as retired government servants. An Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) has also been established to provide on-line information through telephones. The portal has more than 100 lacs GPF records of about 2.83 lacs in-service government employees. In addition, there are live records for Pensioners, Public Grievances, final payments, new admissions and missing schedules of Drawing and Disbursement Officers.

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

http://ori.nic.in/fscw

Web based MIS for Food, Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department, Orissa : The Food, Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department ensures distribution and availability of Essential Commodities to the people at reasonable prices through a network of Fair Price Shops in the State of Orissa. To monitor the activities at the district/block level, capture related data from the district level, access the field information on-line, state level data consolidation and generate reports, web enabled application has been developed & implemented. A State level workshop for all the District Civil Supply Officers was conducted recently.

Sushanta Kumar Bhol, NIC Orissa

http://gov.ua.nic.in/transport/

Transport Department, Uttaranchal : Sh. Heera Singh Bisht, Hon'ble Minister of Transport, Government of Uttaranchal inaugurated the Website of Transport Department at NIC Uttaranchal, Dehradun. Salient features of the site were demonstrated by Sh. Rajeev Joshi, Additional Secretary, Transport. The website provides downloading facility of citizen centric services forms to the public. This website contains information about the History of Transport Department, Organizational Structure, Details about obtaining license, registration, guidelines and forms, Tax structure, Offences & Penalties, Road Signs, Dos and Don'ts of Hill Routes and other details.

A K Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

http://pibaizawl.nic.in

Inauguration of PIB Aizawl website : Dr R.Lalthangliana, Minister, Information & Public Relation, Mizoram inaugurated Press Information Bureau (PIB) Aizawl website on 7th April 2005. With the inauguration of PIB Aizawl website, the local media can get Central Government Press Releases, Features etc. in Mizo language, information on Mizoram Journalists, Media List, Cable TV Regulation Act etc can also be seen from the website.

Lalhmachhuani, Mizoram Correspondent

http://jnkvv.nic.in

Website of Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Madhya Pradesh : The website of Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya hosted in the public domain by NIC, Madhya Pradesh State Center was launched recently. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya serves as a center for teaching and research in the field of Agriculture and Allied Science to enhance the productivity, profitability and sustainability of agricultural production system and quality of rural livelihood in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It disseminates information to farmers, extension personnel and organizations engaged in agricultural development through various extension programmes. This website provides comprehensive information about the various agro-climatic zones of Madhya Pradesh, crop varieties released by the University, availability of seeds etc.

Santosh Shukla, Madhya Pradesh Correspondent

Informatics

http://wardha.nic.in/

Wardha District Website, Maharashtra : Official website of the Wardha district, Maharashtra was inaugurated by Guardian and School Education Minister Sh. Vasant Purke on 8th July 2005. Deputy Chairperson of Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly), Sh. Pramod Shende was also present on the occasion. The website provides information about the history and demography of the district. The site also provides information about the District Administration and various citizen services provided by it.

Moiz Hussain Ali, Maharashtra Correspondent

http://www.pon.nic.in/election/

Website for voter list , Pondicherry : A website designed and hosted by NIC has been launched, where the complete Electoral Roll of Pondicherry is made available on Web. As Pondicherry comprises of outlying regions like Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, the Search Interface has been developed in three languages viz., Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. Floating Keyboard, dynamic web font, are some of the other highlights of this web site. Search by Address, Search by EPIC Number and Search by Name are the facilities currently available in the web site. An online enrollment for EPIC is also made available in the web site. Secretary (Elections) formally launched this web site during a meeting of EROs.

Sivanandam S, Pondicherry Correspondent

http://sandhan.nic.in

Website of Tribal Research Institute, Madhya Pradesh :

The Tribal Research Institute, MP has come online. The Government of Madhya Pradesh established Tribal Research Institute, Bhopal in the year 1965 for the upliftment of tribal population. It is mainly engaged in the conservation and protection of tribal culture. It also offers Research Fellowship to the scholars for conducting research related to tribals. The website, designed and hosted by NIC (MP State Centre), contains information related to the administrative setup, schemes, museum, library, publications, and achievements of the Institute etc.

Santosh Shukla, Madhya Pradesh Correspondent

http://www.roerich.kar.nic.in/

The Roerich & Devikarani Roerich Estate Board website : Dr. Svetoslav Roerich, an eminent artist and a Russian by birth, had

made India his home. The Roerich Estate Board website, designed and hosted by NIC Karnataka was launched by Hon'ble CM of Karnataka recently. His Excellency The Governor of Karnataka, His Excellency The Consulate General of Russia in Chennai, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Government of Karnataka, Chief Secretary and others were present in the function. Sh. B.V. Sarma, SIO, Karnataka was felicitated at the Investiture Ceremony for design and hosting of the website by Sh. Chota, Secretary, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad.

Sudha Kumari, NIC Karnataka

http://gov.ua.nic.in/ssaua

Website for "Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha", Uttaranchal : The dynamic website for "Uttaranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha" project was released by Additional Chief Secretary, Uttaranchal Government recently. This web site provides comprehensive information about the Introduction of the project, various education related schemes run by Uttaranchal Government, organizational structure and links to education related web sites etc. In addition to this, the website provides data in various forms for online monitoring of work progress in "Uttaranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha" project in the State.

A K Dadhichi, Uttaranchal Correspondent

HAPPENINGS

This section features news about NIC's activities/events across the Country and the various new software being developed by NIC in its mission towards facilitating e-governance.....

◉| **Training conducted at LBSNAA, Mussorie**

The Management Faculty of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad conducted a three-day long module on Project

Management for IAS Professional Course Phase-I. The Project was a part of the module conducted by NIC Training Unit, Mussoorie. The session on Project was a Lecture cum Demonstration followed by hands-on sessions. The content of the sessions included Work Break down Structure (WBS), Milestone, Making Sub-Activities, Outlining, Task Dependency, Gantt Chart, PERT Chart, Network Diagram and other different views, Slack time, Resource Management, Assigning Resources to various activities, Leveling Resources, Resource Graph, Resource and Task usage, Assigning Cost to different activities, Generating Different Reports etc.

M Chakraborty, NICTU Mussorie

◉| **Annual Conference of Nagaland CIC operators**

A two-day annual conference of the Nagaland CIC Operators was recently held at Zonal

July 2005

Council Hall, Kohima. Shri Yitachu, Parliamentary Secretary, Law & Justice, Science & Technology & IT was the Chief Guest. In his speech, he appreciated NIC, Nagaland for contributing tremendously towards the skill upgradation and capacity building of the Government employees of the various departments. He also said that CIC, the brainchild of NIC is doing well in almost all the areas.

Swedesenuo Natso, Nagaland Correspondent

◉| **VC Services inaugurated in Bihar**

Hon'ble Governor of Bihar Dr. Buta Singh inaugurated Video conferencing facility in the state of Bihar on 25th May 2005. Many dignitaries such as Hon'ble Union Minister of State Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Ministry of Communications & IT, Govt. of India, Chief Secretary of Bihar, Development Commissioner of Bihar and DG NIC were also present at the function.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Arun Pathak, Advisor to H. E. Governor of Bihar said dedication of video conferencing services will not only help in expediting e-Governance in the state but its utility will indirectly benefit the common masses in deriving qualitative Govt. services.

N.K Prasad, Bihar Correspondent

◉| **VC Session conducted by Nagaland Chief Secretary**

A VC session between the Nagaland Chief Secretary, and other senior officers was held on 3rd June in Kohima to assess various developmental activities being undertaken in the districts as well as law and order situation in the state. Chief Secretary interacted with the various Deputy Commissioners using NIC's VC services and held discussions over impor-

tant matters concerning the state.

Kemvu Elah, Nagaland Correspondent

◉| **Vehicle Registration Computerization (VAHAN) Launched at Ropar**

VAHAN software developed by NIC for issuance of Registration of commercial and private vehicles was launched recently at Ropar, in Punjab as a pilot project. The project leader from State of Punjab Dr. K.S. Sra, Additional State Transport Commissioner said, with the

help of this software DTO would be able to issue the Registration Certificate within half an hour after completion of all required formalities. District Transport Officer Mr. P.S. Johal, intimated that entire backlog data since 1968 has been captured through the software. And now onwards, all the transactions related to old Registration Certificates would be managed using this software.

Sarbjeet Singh, Punjab Correspondent

◉| **AIS launched in Ludhiana**

Affidavit Information System (AIS) designed and developed by NIC Punjab State Centre was recently launched and implemented at Ludhiana. Seven clients have been installed at SUWIDHA Counters for AIS, each equipped with Digital Camera and Laser printer in the newly constructed chamber in Mini Secretariat. Out of these seven counters, two counters are especially designated for Senior Citizens and Ladies only. Approximately 900 affidavits are attested at SUWIDHA counters daily through AIS. With the affidavit attestation, insurance activity

has become simpler and faster. The Chief Secretary of Punjab Shri Jai Singh Gill, recently visited SUWIDHA Centre at Ludhiana and lauded the implementation of AIS.

Vikram Jeet Grover, Punjab Correspondent

| IT Secretary visits Joshimath

Sh. Brijesh Kumar, Secretary (IT), recently visited Uttaranchal to review the progress being made by State Govt. in the field of Information Technology and e-governance. During his visit to one of the border Tahsil

"Joshimath" in Chamoli District, he appreciated the work of NIC while reviewing the progress of Computerization of Land Records at Tahsil Level. He viewed the working of NIC's "Bhu-Lekh" Software and generated a copy of ROR. In addition, the DIO of the State apprised him about the various projects that NIC is working on in the State.

Rajesh Goyal, Uttaranchal Correspondent

| DC*Suite goes online with 145 Terminals

Palakkad Collectorate in Kerala went online with 145 terminals, a combination of thick &

thin clients, covering all the employees of the collectorate. The intranet application has the features of Workflow based file movement system, revenue recovery & public grievance modules. Besides the site preparation, NIC has established the district data center, academy hall for training, VC facility and Touch Screen Kiosk as turnkey project.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

| 18th E-Governance Centre Operational at Kangra(HP)

Transport and Tourism Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sh. G.S. Bali inaugurated the E-Governance Centre at Kangra sub-division of District Kangra, on 7th May 2005. This is the 18th sub-division where the services of issuing the driving licenses and vehicle registration have been started. Sh. Bali informed that under the project all records pertaining to motor vehicle registration and licensing have been digitized. This would facilitate prompt updating of these records. He added that

Department of Transport, with the help of NIC Dharamsala, Shimla and New Delhi, has developed software for these applications besides software for issuance of various permits for vehicles, tax receipts etc.

Mukesh K Ralli, HP Correspondent

| Inauguration of 6th E-SAMPARK Centre

Sh. S K Sandhu, IAS, Finance Secretary and

Secretary IT Chandigarh Administration inaugurated the 6th E-SAMPARK Centre in Sector 23 Chandigarh on 9th May. Senior

officers from Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation were present on the occasion. Apart from 11 services pertaining to 7 departments, Passport form collection service and bill payment through credit card has also been started. Now Credit card holders will be able to pay their electricity and water bills online.

Vivek Verma, Chandigarh Correspondent

| First SUWIDHA-SDM Centre inaugurated

Sh. B. R. Bajaj, Principal Secretary, IT, Government of Punjab inaugurated the first SUWIDHA – SDM centre at Mohali in Ropar

District on 6th June 2005. SUWIDHA – SDM Centre accepts application forms for SDM office services and 4 Back-end Services. Back-end Services includes Affidavit Issuance System, Certificate Issuance System, SARATHI and VAHAN. SUWIDHA 2.0 software developed by NIC Punjab is generic in nature and can be implemented in any Deputy Commissioner office of the country.
Sh. Bajaj appreciated the team efforts of NIC Punjab and called for SUWIDHA – SDM implementation in all the 72 SDM offices of the State with technical support of NIC Punjab.

Vikram Jeet Grover, Punjab Correspondent

| Road inauguration through VC in J&K

NIC J&K added another achievement to its list as Video Conferencing facility was used when a road in Jammu city connecting Zanana Park with CTO was re-christened in the name of former Chief of Army Staff, General (Retd.) N.C. Vij. The road was inaugurated remotely by H.E. the Governor of J&K, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S.K. Sinha and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jenab Mufti Mohd. Sayeed on 23rd April 2005, by means of Video Conferencing facility provided by NIC. A galaxy of dignitaries and eminent personalities, including the Deputy Chief Minister, Pt. Mangat Ram Sharma and General Vij, were present on the occasion. Both the sites were connected by means of VC and as

Informatics

Informatics

soon as the inauguration was done, the Abhinav Theatre reverberated with sounds of applause and cheers of not only those present there but also of the 400 Army Jawans present near the memorial plaque on the road. The OFC backbone of the Power Grid, Jammu was utilized for connectivity. NIC's efforts were appreciated by all quarters including the Municipal Corporation, Jammu, which had organized the function.

Jit Raj, Jammu & Kashmir Correspondent

◉| **Chief Minister launched state– wide e-Kosh project in Chhattisgarh**

Five months after inaugurating the pilot phase of NIC Chhattisgarh's e-Kosh project, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh on 1st May'05 launched the full-fledged e-Kosh project at the City Treasury Office, Raipur in a function attended by a host of cabinet Ministers, senior officers and other

VIPs. The Chief Minister speaking on the occasion appreciated the collective efforts of the State finance department and NIC. The e-Kosh software developed by NIC covers the treasury subsystems viz. Payments, Receipts, Deposit Accounts, Works Accounts, and Pensions. The V-SAT based treasury network has 17 district treasuries, 46 Sub-Treasuries and 3 Divisional Joint Director offices as its nodes. The payment and expenditure data on the district treasury servers and central servers at Joint Director offices is updated daily online from concerned sub-treasuries. Now the latest Payment and expenditure status of any treasury can be known at any time with the commencement of e-Kosh network.
Y V Shreenivas Rao, Chhattisgarh Correspondent

◉| **Computerisation of Government Press at Pondicherry**

NIC, Pondicherry has taken up the complete computerization of various activities of the Directorate of Stationery and Printing. As part of this exercise, a website for the Department of Stationery and Printing has been designed and hosted by NIC, Pondicherry. For the first

time, all the Government Gazettes are made available on the web. Other features like Govt. Telephone Directory, Various Forms for Government Staff, Frequently Asked Questions, etc are also available on the website. The website was formally launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. N.Rangasami. Smt. M. Sathiavathy, IAS, Secretary (IT) presided over the function.

Sivanandam S, Pondicherry Correspondent

◉| **New portals to guide farmers**

Utilization of ICTs for agricultural development has become inevitable in the post-WTO scenario. To optimize the effectiveness of these tools, NIC has come up with DACNET (http://dacnet.nic.in), Agmarknet (http://agmarknet.nic.in) and Agris portals. These portals, developed by NIC in collaboration with The Directorate of Oilseed Development, Hyderabad were unveiled at the one-day

National Workshop on "WEB services on Oilseeds Development: DACNET (Phase II) Initiative" in Hyderabad on 31st May 05. With the operationalisation of these portals, every available information pertaining to all the State Agriculture departments will be available at one place. Shortly portals in all regional languages will be developed. Speaking on this occasion Sh. M. Moni, Deputy Director General, Agricultural Informatics Division, NIC, New Delhi informed that in the overall strategy of ushering e-governance, the

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing DACNET as a central scheme, in which all the 172 directorates spread across the country and field offices are networked.
S Ramchandran, Andhra Pradesh correspondent

◉| **Launch of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana by Hon'ble PM**

Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh launched a new scheme named as Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification on 4th April 2005. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Sh. P.M. Sayeed, Union Power Minister presided over the function.
The Chief Ministers of 12 States (Assam, J&K, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal) and H.E. the Governor of Bihar participated in the programme through video-conferencing. Union Territory of Lakshadweep also participated on the national network during the programme. NIC facilitated the multipoint videoconferencing link over NICNET from Vigyan Bhavan to 9 States. The conference was well appreciated by all dignitaries present at Vigyan Bhavan.

Sambeet Mishra, NIC HQ

◉| **State Level Inauguration of Service Delivery Project at Kottayam**

The State Level Inauguration of Service Delivery Project under Modernizing Government Programme was held at Kottayam on 19 March, 2005. Sh. Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala inaugurated the Project. The Software developed by NIC Kerala State Center

for linking Sub Registrar Office, Taluk Office and Village Office was released by Sh. C F Thomas, Minister for Rural Development and Registration. Actual transaction was registered at Kottayam Additional SRO on 18, March 2005 using PEARL software of NIC and the Thandapper Extract and Basic Tax Receipt was

issued to the party on 19, March 2005 using EMERALD software of NIC.

Asha Varma, Kerala Corespondent

| Planning and Management of Water Resources

A paper titled "Informatics Blueprint for Integrated Water Resources Planning and Management at grassroots level: A Quintessential Requirement for Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Agricultural Development in India" was presented by Sh. M Moni, DDG (NIC) at the recent National Conference on "Climate Change and its Impact on Water Resources in India", organized by Department of Geography, School of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The paper deals in detail with the methods and plans that should be adopted for management of water resources in developing countries like India.

R Gayatri, Tamil Nadu Correspondent

| Distribution of IT awareness training certificate to MLAs by CM, Mizoram

An IT awarness training was jointly organized and conducted by NIC Mizoram State Centre and Mizoram Legislative Assembly in February. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram, Sh. Zoramthanga distributed the training certificates to all Ministers and MLAs at Assembly Secretariat, Mizoram.

This is the first time that NIC Mizoram organized and conducted such training for the senior level functionaries of the state. Topics covered were Introduction to e-governance, various ongoing e-governance projects of Mizoram government, usage of Internet/email etc.

Lalhmachhuani, Mizoram Correspondent

| Workshop on Arunachal Pradesh Payroll System (APPS) package

A one-day workshop on Arunachal Pradesh Payroll System (APPS) package for state

government departments was organised by NIC Arunachal Pradesh State Unit recently at Itanagar. The Department of Information Public Relation & Printing sponsored the workshop. 25 participants from 12 departments participated in the workshop. The

workshop was inaugurated by the Secretary to the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. The APPS 3.0 CD with User Manual was also distributed to the departments on the occasion.
The HODs and participants appreciated the efforts of NIC and suggested to conduct such workshops in future also.

D K Debnath, NIC Arunachal Pradesh

| AGMARKNET Workshops in Maharashtra

NIC Maharashtra State Centre, Mumbai is implementing AGMARKNET Project in Maharashtra. Under phase-I & II of this project, 64 Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) have been computerized and under phase III, 100 APMCs have been computerized.
As a part of this project, NIC Maharashtra State Centre, Mumbai conducted 10 workshops

for the officers and staff of APMCs at Raigad, Nashik, Beed and Yavatmal district of Maharashtra last year.
DIO of NIC Centre at Raigad, Nashik, Beed and Yavatmal and Mr. Pravin Surawar from Maharashtra State Centre coordinated these workshops. DIO and DIA of neighbouring districts of above locations participated in conducting training at these workshops.
During the workshops, lectures and practical were conducted on basics of computer, e-mail

and Internet, Lotus SmartSuit, AGMARKNET data reporting software and AGMARKNET Portal. A total of 180 staff/Officers of APMCs participated in these 10 workshops.
Video conferencing was also conducted between NIC Mumbai and NIC Nashik and NIC Beed in which Sh. Moiz Hussain Ali, SIO Maharashtra interacted with the participants.

P K Suri, NIC HQ

| Training Conducted for Operators of Rural Service Delivery Points (RSDP)

A training Programme was conducted recently for operators of Rural Service Delivery Points (RSDP) or Rajiv Rural Internet Kiosks of East Godavari District for 4 days to cover all the operators batch wise.
The activities & services provided by NIC included Agmarknet, Marknet, Judis, Courtis, Medlars, Passport (Webpass), GISTNIC etc. and East Godavari District web site, NIC website etc were also demonstrated.
A set of 10 CDs containing 'Rythu Samachara Darshini' was distributed to create awareness among farmers of the village through the RSDP operators.

This facilitates RSDP Operators to get additional income by providing the services to citizens and also creates awareness among the rural public.

BVNS Prakasa Rao, NIC Andhra Pradesh

| Paper on e-Granthalaya presented at the ADB Regional Workshop.

A paper titled "e-Granthalaya: Moving Towards

Rural Digital Library for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods" was presented by Sh. M Moni, DDG (NIC) at Regional Workshop on "Managing Sustainable e-Community Centers", organized by ADB Institute (Tokyo) and Colombo Plan Staff College for Technical Education (CPSC), from 4-10 May 2005 at Agra (India). Professor John Rose, who is a renowned professor in Library science and has been associated with UNESCO for a long time, has hailed the proposal for an e-Granthalaya of rural libraries using digital library techniques. A workshop for "e-Granthalaya and NewsNIC" users was also organized by the Library & Information Services Division, NIC HQs during 2-3 May 2005. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri M Moni, DDG(NIC). The workshop was attended by 32 participants from various Government/ PSU/ Private libraries from all over India. The workshop was aimed to give training on implementation and use of library application software (e-Granthalaya and NewsNIC) developed by NIC.

P K Upadhayay, NIC HQ

◉| Seminar on E-Governance

NIC, Lakshadweep organized a seminar on E-governance recently at Kavaratti. The Hon'ble Administrator, Sh. Parimal Rai, IAS inaugurated the seminar. Sh. Madhup Vias, Secretary (IT), Lakshadweep, Sh. B. Amanulla District and Sessions Judge, Sh. H.S. Dhaliwal, Superintendent of Police and Sh. C.M. Ahmed, Director, DIT and the head of all the departments of the Lakshadweep administration participated in the seminar.
A demonstration of the Intranet using the Intranic of NIC, the file tracking system (FTS)

developed by NIC, which can track movement of files and letters and the rural bazaar portal that is an e-commerce portal for the promotion of products of rural artisans was done at the seminar. Brief presentations on Smart

Card, Digital Signature and Biometrics device were also made.
K P Mohammed Koya, Lakshdweep Correspondent

◉| Citizen IT Kiosk inaugurated

A touch screen based "CITIZEN IT KIOSK" was inaugurated recently at the visitor's room of Collectorate, Dhenkanal (Orissa) for dissemination of Govt. information to general public. Smt. Usha Padhee, Collector of the district inaugurated the IT Kiosk. The IT Kiosk disseminates information such as ROR details, Grievance Status, Gun license information,

NGO details, Project details, MPLAD/MLALAD Schemes and Blood donors data base. It also provides information about schemes such as SC, ST, Children's, Women's welfare, Fact File (Administration, People's representative, Press, Health facilities, Industries, History, Demography, Mines & Minerals, Cultural, Games etc.), Departmental Information, Emergency Services etc.

Dillip Kumar Nanda, NIC Orissa

◉| DG NIC visits Public Service Centers in Gujarat

Dr. N Vijayaditya, DG (NIC), during his visit to Gujarat on June 3, 2005 visited the citizen service centers in Kheda district. He had been to the One Day Civic Center, E-Dhara (Land Records) center at taluka and e-gram center at village Panchayat where NIC developed G2C applications are facilitating the administration.

The One Day Civic Center at taluka level issues various certificates to citizens on the samr day of application. In Kheda district, physically handicapped operators hired by the Government are operating the system.
The E-Dhara center issues the Record of Right

(ROR) copy to the landowners. All 225 taluka offices in Gujarat have an E-Dhara center operational with the rural land records data and the changes are done online. The computerized ration card system is also

implemented in all taluka using NIC software. The 'e-gram' is based on the survey of families living in the village. This contains the details of each family member. This data is used to provide certificates such as income, caste, domicile, character, etc. to citizens. The Gujarat Government has initiated the project to replicate the software already running in more than 600 villages to another 3000 villages and is aiming to cover 13000 villages this year.

Rajnish Mahajan & Manoj P A, NIC Gujarat

◉| ICT Support to NDC Meeting

The 51st meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, was held on 27-28th June, 2005 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The main agenda of the meeting was the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

NIC played a significant role in providing necessary ICT support for the meeting. This time, the proceedings were directly web-cast on the Internet over the NIC website with proper linkage to Planning Commission (PC) website and the inaugural session was viewed live over Internet by millions of people all across the world. During the press conference of the meet, the mid-term appraisal document was uploaded on the Planning Commission website, both in English and Hindi languages.

Shefali S Dash, NIC HQ