

Informatics

AN **e** GOVERNANCE BULLETIN FROM NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE

SPECIAL FEATURE

Right to Information Act ' 2005

STATE IN FOCUS

Punjab
Arunachal Pradesh

GUEST COLUMN

E-Gov Initiatives in Sikkim

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Open Source
Technology

DISTRICT INFORMATICS

Tinsukia (Assam)
Hoshungabad
(Madhya Pradesh)

E-GOVERNANCE PRODUCTS & SERVICES

NICNET Monitoring
System

Centralised Allotment
Process (2005)

SANWAD (E-Gov Service)-
Assam

E-Praman: Certificate
Issuance System

Monitoring System
for National Polio
Surveillance Project





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The recent enforcement of Right to Information Act is a landmark step towards ensuring a transparent and accountable government in the Country. The new legislation unequivocally confers on all citizens the right to access information and, correspondingly, makes the dissemination of such information an obligation for all public authorities. With this, India has joined the ranks of fifty-four other countries of the world which allow 'Right to Information' to their citizens. Let us hope that this step serves its intended purpose of establishing a regime that guarantees citizens' Right to know!! We are covering information about the Act and its ICT perspective in this issue of Informatics, apart from our other sections. Your feedback is welcome and shall help us improve further...

Best wishes for the festival season from the team of Informatics!

Sonal Kalra

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

Readers Write

Dear Editor,

I am a regular reader of Informatics since the very beginning. It is full of information and I eagerly await a new issue every quarter. Through Informatics, we get the perspective of NIC's activities as a whole. Due to all of us being located in different regions, it is not feasible otherwise to be aware about the activities of NIC towards the development of the ICT sector and the country at large. We feel proud to know about the outstanding work executed by our colleagues who are felicitated by their respective State Governments.

Informatics has changed a lot for the better since the day of its inception. I hope and believe that it will improve day by day and prove to be a valuable document to preserve for the future.

Azad Singh
 NIC Training Unit (NICTU)
 LBS National Academy of Administration
 Mussoorie

Dear Editor,

Most of the IT Professionals in our country know that INFORMATICS is an e-governance Bulletin of NIC. I am very impressed by the bulletin and would like its scope to be widened and spread over not just India but the rest of the world too. Also, being an IT professional, I find the contents of Informatics very useful (especially the Technology Update Section) and would like to be a regular recipient of all the issues of the bulletin. At present, the bulletin cannot be subscribed directly by non-NIC persons in States. Kindly let me know how I can receive and access the bulletin regularly.

Ashwani Khare
 Asst. Programmer
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Editor Replies :
 All issues of Informatics can be accessed on the WWW at <http://informatics.nic.in>

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▶ Aruna Chhaba, Subodh Shukla & Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

RIGHT TO INFORMATION : Step towards Transparent Governance

Thanks to the sustained grassroots campaign and political will on the part of the Government, the long awaited Right to Information Act, 2005 that got the ratification of both the Houses of Parliament on May 12, has become effective from October 12 this year. The new legislation is a radical improvement on the relatively weak statute it seeks to replace, the Freedom of Information Act, 2002. It unequivocally confers on all citizens the right to access information and, correspondingly, makes the dissemination of such information an obligation for all public authorities. It is quoted in the preamble of the Act that "it provides for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

Enactment of the legislation has made India one of the 55 countries that have comprehensive laws to protect the citizens' right to information. The Right to Information Act is in line with the tenets of democracy and also a suitable response to the relentless efforts and mass mobilization in favor of a comprehensive Central Act providing access to information regime.

● | Problem of less transparency in present system of Information Dissemination

The Supreme Court of India has, from time to time, interpreted Article 19 of the Constitution, which upholds the right to freedom of speech and expression, to implicitly include the right to receive and impart information. This has resulted in establishment of the fact that the citizens'

right to know is embedded in the Constitutional provisions guaranteeing fundamental rights.

Despite this, transparency in the Indian system of governance has not been up to the desirable level till now. Several factors have contributed to this situation.

Traditionally, there has been a pervasive culture of secrecy in the bureaucracy that is compounded by some provisions of the Official Secret Act. Moreover, low levels of literacy and lack of awareness amongst the general masses restrict information flow in India. Absence of reliable and effective communication tools for storage and dissemination of information is also an encumbrance in the free flow of information. In many government departments, the standard of record keeping is not up to the mark. Access to information is thus denied in many cases on the pretext that record is either irretrievable or 'misplaced'.

● | Right to Information for greater transparency

The Right to Information and Open Government are considered to be two of the most important and imperative attributes of liberal democratic countries. There has been an almost indomitable global trend in the recent years towards recognition of the right to information by countries, non-governmental organisations, civil societies and the common masses. Nine Indian states namely, Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Goa, and Madhya Pradesh already have laws on the right to information to show their commitment for building a dynamic and prosperous society by involving the people in governance and decision making process. It has been realized by most of the countries through experience that greater access of the citizens to information enhances the responsiveness of

government to community needs. In turn, this facilitates speedy redressal of public grievances and thus improves feeling of goodwill towards the government. On the other hand, restrictions on the free flow of information results in feeling of 'powerlessness' and 'alienation' among the citizens. Concealing information makes the government machinery less accountable and therefore more prone to misuse of power.

● | Salient Features of the Act

The Right to Information Act has a comprehensive reach and covers a wide spectrum of bodies like:

- Central government, the State governments
- Panchayati Raj institutions & Local Bodies
- Bodies that are established, constituted, owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government including non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Even private bodies will have to impart such information that the citizens ought to know.

An outstanding feature of the Right to Information Act, 2005 is the provision for constitution of Information Commissions, which would be independent high level bodies at both the Central and State level. The commissions will be responsible for encouraging the citizen's right to know and for enforcing the provisions of the Act. A committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister has constituted the Central Information Commission. The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner as head and several Central Information Commissioners (CICs). A similar setup shall exist at the state level. By empowering these Commissions to act as appellate authorities and by vesting them with the powers of a civil court, these bodies have been given the teeth to discourage public authorities from refusing to part with information. The provisions of the Act require authorities to respond to queries within 30 days or in as little as 48 hours, if it is a matter of life and liberty.

The Act gives a comprehensive definition of information and explicitly states that "information" means any material in any form, including records, documents, memos, e-mails, opinions, advices, press



releases, circulars, orders, logbooks, contracts, reports, papers, samples, models and data material held in any electronic form. The definition also includes "information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a public authority under any other law". This provision increases the accountability for a private body and puts the onus on the government to collect information from them, rather than requiring the public to chase private bodies themselves.

The Act has a progressive approach and calls for implementation of ICT in order to efficiently store and disseminate information. It has been emphatically stated in the Act that, "All public authorities maintain all its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner and

the form which facilitates the right to information under this Act and ensure that all records that are appropriate to be computerized are, within a reasonable time and subject to availability of resources, computerized and connected through a network all over the country on different systems so that access to such records is facilitated."

The Act has an interesting variation as it asks for proactive disclosure of information from public authorities. The Act says that "it shall be a constant endeavour of every public authority...to provide as much information *suo motu* to the public at regular intervals through various means of communications, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information."

Winding up

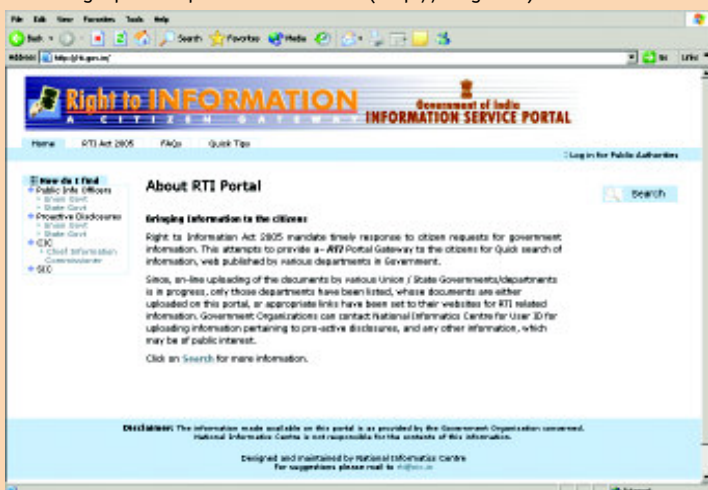
The passing of the Right to Information Act has been welcomed from all quarters of the society as it is a significant step towards establishing a regime that guarantees citizens' right to know. In addition to providing the right to information to the citizens, the Act also establishes that the state must be equipped with adequate apparatus so that easy and inexpensive access to information is provided. Provisions of the Act that assign specific time limit for providing the information sought and serious penalties for non-compliance would go a long way in increasing transparency and accountability in the government departments.

Role of NIC in implementation of Right to Information Act - 2005

In the capacity of Right to Information Act implementation agency, Ministry of Personnel approached NIC for providing necessary ICT support for its implementation. Director General (NIC) agreed to provide the support, and gave a presentation on proposed action plan in the conference of Chief Secretaries organized by Ministry of Personnel in September 2005.

The scope of ICT support would include:

- Setting up of a specialized website (<http://rti.gov.in>) for



centralized repository of proactive disclosure of documents of various Public Authorities under Central & State Governments.

- Development of Portal Service for uploading of the documents by the concerned Public Authorities
- Directory Service of Public Authorities, Public Information Officers,

Appellate Authorities, Chief Information Commissions etc.

- User friendly mechanism for search and access of information by citizens round the clock
- Work flow application for on-line submission of requests for information/ appeals/ complaints and their follow-up
- Workflow application for Monitoring of status of requests, appeals, complaints etc.
- Repository of the requests that have already been answered in a way that is searchable by the citizens.

The schematic diagram of information flow in the 'Right to Information' portal is available on the web version of this story at <http://informatics.nic.in>

Present status of computerization

- A team of NIC officials from Headquarters and Karnataka State Centre has been formed for development of centralized system as per the scope mentioned above.
- At present, web site <http://rti.gov.in> has been created, and RTI portal has been designed, developed and implemented for uploading of proactive disclosures by various central and State Government Departments. HODs / SIOs have already initiated actions for uploading the documents. Necessary links have been provided to those web sites, where they are already available. As on 20th October 2005, more than 300 departments have uploaded their documents.
- Repository of Public Information Officers of various Departments has also been built, to help the citizens to approach them for request for information
- Karnataka center has developed system for maintaining database of Public Authorities and processing of requests for information in consultation with Nodal office of DARPG in Bangalore.

For more information, mail to chhaba@nic.in



► Sunil Kumar, NIC Punjab

PUNJAB : Making its Mark

Punjab is a prominent state in the northwestern India. The State shares its borders with Pakistan on the west, the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir on the north, Himachal Pradesh on its northeast and Haryana and Rajasthan to its south. It has 17 districts and covers an area of 50,362 square kilometres, which is 1.54 % of India's total geographical area.

NIC Punjab State Centre came into existence in 1988 when IT was still in its nascent stage. NIC Punjab played crucial role in promotion of ICT in the government departments and has State Centres in Punjab Civil Secretariat and Punjab Mini Secretariat. Apart from having NIC District Centres in all the 17 Districts, it has presence in Regional Passport Centre at Chandigarh and Jalandhar, Central Excise and Customs department at Chandigarh and Ludhiana and at the Registrar of Companies office in Jalandhar.

● | Infrastructure

NIC Punjab State Centre and District Units are equipped with modern Servers and Client machines as well as peripherals with latest configurations. NIC Punjab is connected to Network Control Centre at Chandigarh through 2 mbps leased line as well as RF connectivity. The Network Control Centre is further connected with NIC headquarters through 8 mbps leased line. All Districts have been provided with SCPC DAMA VSATs for Video Conferencing whereas DirecWay/FTDMA has been provided for Data Communication. NIC Punjab State Center has installed high-end servers as part of augmentation of Network and Data Centre.

● | The Path Travelled

NIC Punjab has travelled a long way in e-Governance activities. It has implemented varied applications starting from Office Automation Suite to SUWIDHA, which is an important project in delivering services to the citizens. On the services side, two Secretariats of Punjab have been connected through RF as well as leased line. Internet/E-mail Services are being provided over the LAN of Punjab Government, which comprises 800 nodes. NIC Punjab State Centre and District Centres have been providing training

to Punjab Government Officials on Applications as well as general basics.

All the 17 Districts of Punjab have their official websites hosted on NIC Web Server. NIC Punjab has to its credit the design and development of more than 40 websites that are hosted on NIC Web Server. The official email Server of Punjab <http://punjabmail.gov.in> is also on NIC email Server and operates more than 1000 accounts.

NIC Punjab State Centre has developed and implemented a number of national and state level projects for providing better citizen services and to promote e-governance in the government departments. Major projects include:

● | SUWIDHA (Single User Window Disposal Help line for Applicants) –

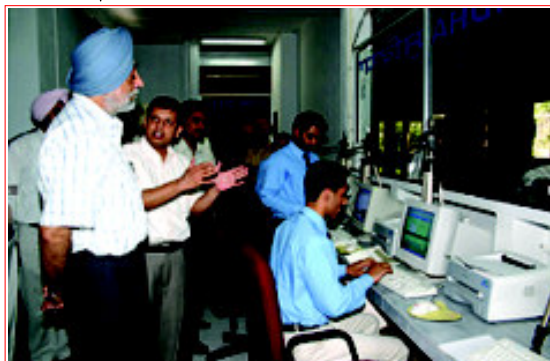
It is a single window service to deliver District Administration services to the citizens. It ensures timely delivery without any need to interact with the concerned branch. SUWIDHA is running successfully in 17 Districts and recently, it has been implemented at the Sub-Divisional level also. SUWIDHA provides convenient services to the citizens as input is collected at a single point, defining a specified delivery date depending upon the type of service and accepting cash at the counter itself. Based on the successful pilot implementation of the SUWIDHA at SDM office, Mohali, Government of Punjab has decided to implement it in all



Principal Secretary, IT, Punjab and other dignitaries at the inauguration of SUWIDHA-SDM at Mohali

72 SDM offices of the state. Citizens have been further facilitated by launch of the <http://suwidha.nic.in> website, where they can check the status of their applications. SUWIDHA, which scored 8.9 out of 10 has been ranked 1st in the Skoch e-Governance Report Card 2005. The report says, "Punjab's SUWIDHA was the only rural facing citizen's service delivery project that covers every district of the state, making it topmost state in this area nationally".

● | SUBS (SUWIDHA Back-end Services) – Front-end is strengthened if back-end applications are implemented. With this objective, 9 Applications integrated with



DC, Ludhiana explaining about AIS to Chief Secretary, Punjab

SUWIDHA front-end services have been implemented in all the 17 districts. The Applications includes Affidavit Information System (AIS), Arms License Issuance System, Countersigning of Documents, Certificate Issuance System etc.

● | iTISP (Integrated Treasuries Information System) – It is an online system developed for automation of district treasuries in Punjab. iTISP includes verification of messenger and DDO by photograph and signature, online checks, computerized cheque printing, linkage with budget, AG accounts, data security etc. Payments, receipts, pension, LOC, and Stamp Modules are also included. iTISP has been implemented at 18 District Treasuries and 48 Sub-Treasuries.

● | PRISM (Property Registration Information System Module) – It is developed for automation of all major activities of Sub-Registrar office and covers deeds of Sale, Mortgage, Will,



Adoption, Exchange, Pattanama/Lease, Tatima, Cancellation of SPA/GPA/Will etc. PRISM has been implemented in almost all the Tehsils (Sub-Registrar Office) of Punjab. Major features of the module include capturing, storage, printing of photographs on stamp paper, valuation of property, on-the-spot registration, single window service etc. It has been implemented at 101 Tehsils/Sub-tehsils. Now the scope of the project has been further enhanced to include Workflow, Scanning of Deed and Deed Writing Module. Enhanced project has been implemented at Sangrur that has scored 7.4 out of 10 in the Skoch's e-Governance Report and ranked 9th. PRISM Version 4.0 is ISO Certified by STQC.

• | **SSIS** (Social Security Information System) – It has been developed for Department of Social Security and Women and Child Development for the maintenance of beneficiaries of all social security schemes of the state with automation of monthly disbursement scrolls. The project has been implemented in all the 17 Districts of Punjab.

• | **OAS** (Office Automation Suite) – With the aim to automate the basic functions of the Punjab Government Offices, four applications have been developed and implemented in 15 different offices at State level and 17 districts of Punjab. It includes:

• **DDMS** - (Diary and Dispatch Monitoring System) – To support any office to capture the data as well as workflow of the movement of mail received. It is Integrated, Customised, Bilingual and supported by useful monitoring Reports.

• **RMS** - (Reference Monitoring System) – To manage and monitor different types of references and complaints received and forwarded to other departments/officers. It facilitates automatic reminder generation, customised installation, acknowledgement generation and graphical reports.

• **MMS**- (Meeting Monitoring System) – To facilitate an office in

organizing meetings. Provision for recording post-meeting details like actions to be taken, minutes of the meeting etc.

• **CCMS** - (Court Cases Monitoring System) – To build central database and monitor court cases of an office pending in various courts. History of case is recorded. Follow-up action based on next date of hearing is prepared.

• | **BPIS** – (Budget Preparation and Information System) – The system prepares all documents related to Punjab Government Budget and helps in decision making. Published on Web every year.

• | **AGMARKNET** – It is helping the farmers in getting latest rates in Mandis of Punjab. AGMARKNET has been implemented in all the 145 Mandis. About 300 officials of Punjab Mandi Board have been trained under this project.

• | **DACNET** – Technical Support in terms of implementation of Application software at Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratory (RPTL), Chandigarh Regional Plant Quarantine Station (RPQS), Amritsar and Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Jalandhar is being extended.

• | **SARATHI** – It is a workflow-based computerization of Driving License implemented in 4 Districts of Punjab.

• | **VAHAN** – It is also a workflow based Computerization of Registration of Vehicle implemented in 3 Districts of Punjab. In Skoch's e-Governance Report 2005, Transport Projects (SARATHI & VAHAN) at Ropar scored 8.1 out of 10 and ranked 5th.



VAHAN Software being launched at DTO Office, Rupnagar

• | **Products Promotion**

For promoting its products, NIC Punjab participated in Bangalore IT.Com, India

International Trade Fair (IITF) 2004, ELITEX 2005 where SUWIDHA, PRISM and other products were showcased. The citizens were made aware how IT is helping to make their lives easy.

• | **Publishing of RTI Information** – Government of Punjab has decided to publish information of all departments, boards and corporations under the Section 4 (1) (b) of RTI Act on the website <http://rti.gov.in>. Publishing of information is in progress.

Message from Secretary, IT, Department of Information Technology, Govt. of Punjab



I am happy to note that Informatics, Quarterly newsletter of NIC, is the source of sharing information on e-governance related projects in

India. I am also of the opinion that NIC is providing best technical services for delivery of better services to the citizens and government by use of IT tools. It is team efforts of NIC and Punjab Government officers that we are marching forward in implementation of meaningful e-governance projects.

I wish good luck to Editorial Team of Informatics and Punjab State NIC for the team under the able leadership of Mr. Sunil Kumar, SIO for commendable work toward e-Governance Projects in the state. Keep it up.

(Nirmal Jeet Singh Kalsi)

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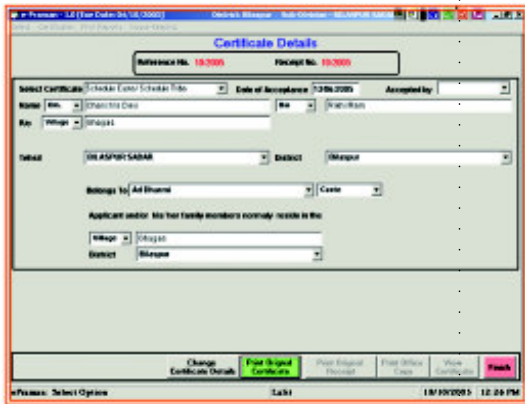


Mukesh K Ralli, Himachal Pradesh Correspondent

E-Praman: Certificate Issuance System

All the Tehsildar and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Offices issue various types of certificates to the public, which are needed for seeking employment, seeking

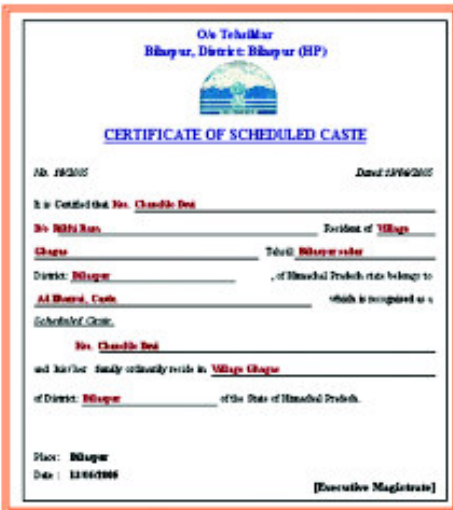
Sub-Divisional Magistrate can obtain the desired certificate in a neat, structured and standardized form on the submission of the application along with relevant papers, within minutes. Various types of certificates viz. Bonafide Certificate, Rural Area Certificate, Indigent (Needy Person) Certificate, Domicile Certificate, Agriculturist Certificate, Character Certificate, SC/ST Certificate, Dogra Class, Minority Community, Other Backward Class Certificate, Income Certificate, Non-Employment, Backward Area Certificate, Legal Heir etc. can be issued using this Certificate Issuance System. With the implementation of E-Praman, the following objectives are fulfilled:



compensation etc. On an average, Tehsil / sub-division offices issue around 25-50 different certificates daily to the general public.

The E-Praman (Certificate Issuance System)

The E-Praman software developed by NIC Himachal Pradesh is a system wherein within minutes the applicant visiting the Tehsildar /



- Better services to the citizens by providing immediate and fast issuance of certificates.
- Uniform and structured format of the certificates.
- Better enforcement of various government notifications in the issuance of the certificates.
- List of SC/ST Castes, Backward classes and Backward Panchayats embedded into the system thereby ensuring better enforcement.
- Maintenance of Databases related to certificates.
- Better monitoring, generation of MIS and query based reports.

The implementation of this system does not require an elaborate setup. Instead, a simple PC with a printer is the minimal hardware requirement for its implementation. Within days of its launching it has been implemented in 12 locations and is expected to be implemented in all Tehsils by March 2006. A very nominal charge of Rs 5/- per certificate (Except Indigent Certificate) is charged for the service.

For more information, mail to ralli.mukesh@nic.in

Monitoring System for National Polio Surveillance Project

Deepak Bhargava, NIC Rajasthan

NIC Rajasthan has developed the Pulse Polio Campaign Monitoring System as per the guidelines of National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), which is a collaborative project of the WHO and the Government of India. The system is effectively being used in the state of Rajasthan. In addition to the Medical and Health department of the Government of Rajasthan, the system is being used directly by the National Polio



Surveillance Project to monitor, from Delhi, the various rounds of Pulse Polio Campaign. The field units of the Medical and Health department file detailed reports on all parameters related to the campaign directly through the system. The system generates MIS and monitoring reports for different levels. These include block wise district reports, consolidated district reports, state level reports, analytical reports such as percentage of booth coverage, percentage of houses generated, percentage of missed houses, etc.

The system also provides for feedback mechanism from all the campaign districts and Surveillance Medical Officers of NPSP from remote locations. Access to the system is restricted to authorised users only. The system has been designed in a generic format and can be used by any state.

For more information, mail to deepak.bhargava@nic.in



► Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam correspondent

TINSUKIA : Facilitating E-Governance



The Tinsukia sub-division of the un-divided Dibrugarh district was declared as the 23rd district of Assam on 1st October 1989. It consists of three sub-divisions including Tinsukia (Sadar), Margherita and Sadiya. In addition to being an industrial district, Tinsukia also produces a large amount of tea, ginger, citrus fruits and paddy. The majority of its population comprises cultivators and agricultural workers. The oldest oil refinery in India is situated at Digboi in this District and Margherita and Ledo are famous for open cast coal mining. The Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is also situated in Tinsukia, which is famous for its extremely rare and endangered species of wild life, and a plethora of flora and fauna.

● | **Emergence of NIC:** The NIC Tinsukia District Unit was established in the year 1990. From the very outset, it has been empowering various sectors of the District Administration with all-round ICT support and necessary training. Implementation of e-governance programmes has further strengthened the role of NIC in the district.

Some of the major projects executed by NIC Tinsukia are as follows:

● | **Public Facilitation Center (PFC):** The PFC



project was started on 1st June 2003 and was named "e-sewa". This is a single point citizen interface enabling fast and easy access to issuance of various types of certificates like PRC, NOC for Birth and Death, Land Sale Permission, Legal Heir Certificate, Circular Copy PRC etc. The query system gives the status of pending applications, list of applications to be issued, applications received, etc.

● | **Land Record computerization (LRC):** Under this programme, an Oracle database has been developed to record and maintain



the details of land tax with addresses of the landowners, area and location for all 979 villages under 14 Mauzas and 3 Sub-divisions. This has been implemented in the Margherita Sub-Division as well. Reports can be viewed using the landowners' name, or village code, or patta number, or *dag* number. Now based on this information, the Jamabandi is issued within a day, a task that used to take one month prior to computerization. This application supports Gist Software Development Kit (I-plugin) and now runs on Windows platform.

● | **Chittha:** Recently an application has been developed to convert Jamabandi data to Chittha. When data is entered in the Jamabandi database, it is automatically updated in the Chittha. It also supports Gist SDK (I-Plugin) like Land Record computerization (LRC) and runs on Windows platform.

● | **MLADS:** As all MLAs are responsible for different types of activities in their respective constituencies, this software has been implemented by the Planning and Development Branch of the District Administration to monitor the progress of the works initiated by the MLAs in various constituencies. All data since 1993 is available in this database.

● | **Bakijai (Loan Recovery):** NIC has recently developed this database for the Bakijai branch of the DC's office to monitor details of government loan holders. Reports on monthly/yearly loan realisation, bank branch wise loan holders list are available here. Notices are also automatically issued against persons not repaying the loans on time.

● | **Payroll:** The Accounts branch of the DC's Office implemented this application system from 1998 to monitor and generate individual/annual/monthly statements and maintain GPF for the entire office staff.

● | **District website:** A comprehensive website has been developed by the NIC Tinsukia District Unit and can be viewed at <http://tinsukia.nic.in>. It gives in-depth information about the district, administration, maps, places of interest, CICs, various schemes, festivals and a lot more. Details about schools, MP/MLA activities, are also available on the site.

In the span of 15 years, NIC Tinsukia district unit has extended its active support to various government projects like BPL survey, Habitation Survey, and school teachers' databases. Beside providing training to the staff members, it has also developed an application called Property Registration System (PRS), which is to be launched shortly. NIC Tinsukia officials have also focused on their own skill enhancement, which helps them in performing their duties more efficiently.

NIC Tinsukia District Unit
District Informatics Officer
Bidyut Ranjan Gohain

For further details please mail to
tinsukia@nic.in



► D K Debnath, NIC Arunachal Pradesh

ARUNACHAL PRADESH : Enhancing Governance through ICT Solutions

Arunachal Pradesh, a vibrant north-eastern state of India covers a total area of 84000 sq km and shares a long international boundary with Bhutan, China and Myanmar. The state has a rich cultural and natural heritage with lush reserve forests and sanctuaries beaming with a variety of wildlife. There are 16 districts in Arunachal Pradesh with Itanagar as the state capital. Arunachal Pradesh also has a rich ethnic diversity with 20 major tribes and more than 50 sub-tribes residing in the state.

The NIC Arunachal Pradesh State Centre was established in the year 1989, and subsequently the District Units were formed. NIC has been the pioneer in the field of ICT services in the state and is further engaged in computerization of government departments, imparting computer training and awareness, software development, website development, providing consultancy and many other services to the State and Central Governments. Some



The then Minister of IT, Sh. T L Rajkumar participating in the valedictory session of DONER sponsored training on 'Utilisation of IT Tools for Government'

of the major activities carried out by NIC Arunachal are as follows: -

◎ | GPF Accounting System

Under this project GPF accounts for all Group A, B and C employees of the State Government are being computerized. The software developed by NIC Arunachal has features to generate broad sheet, annual ledger, annual GPF statement, missing credit

and debit adjustment, transfer-in and transfer-out of accounts, final payment processing etc. Presently, computerization of about 30,000 GPF accounts is going on. With the implementation of the package, the department will be better placed for timely delivery of services to account holders.

◎ | Arunachal Pradesh Payroll system (APPS)

It is a software tool that enables efficient processing of the employees' monthly salary bill. The software developed by NIC Arunachal has facilities to prepare monthly pay bill, calculation of salary and generation of various reports like Pay bill, Bill Abstract, Schedules, Transfer Challans, Bank Account Statement, Acquittance Roll, Pay Slip, Monthly Drawal Statement, Expenditure Statement, Employee Reports, Increment Due List, etc. The APPS has been implemented in the Civil Secretariat. Seeing its popularity, the software has been modified/enhanced to accommodate the requirements of many other departments. A workshop was conducted for the state government departments and after that it is being implemented by many of the departments.

◎ | Annual Salary Budget System (ASBS)

This project is to computerize the Annual Salary Budget Preparation System. The ASBS has been implemented in the Civil Secretariat for preparation of Annual Salary Budget Estimates and Revised Budget Estimates for each financial year.



Workshop on 'Arunachal Pradesh Payroll System' organised for the State Government departments

◎ | Treasury Accounting System (TAS)

This project has been implemented to computerize the Treasuries and independent Sub-treasuries of Arunachal Pradesh. The TAS software is developed by NIC Arunachal and implemented in Itanagar Treasury and Naharlagun Sub-Treasury. The software helps in keeping track of Receipt and Payment,

Cheque Payment, Pension Payment, Sales of Service Stamp and Stamp Paper, Court Fee Payment, Strong Room Record maintenance, Budget Monitoring, Gratuity and Commutation Payment, Reconciliation of Bank Scrolls,

generation of Payment and Receipt Schedules, generation of various statements, Cashbook preparation, etc. TAS is helping the Treasury offices in compilation of daily accounts on time and submission of various reports to the AG Office and Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries.

◎ | Land Information System of Arunachal

This project is taken up by NIC Arunachal for computerization of land allotment system at the Department of Land Management. It has features for data entry of land allotment and mutation. Backlog Data entry for Land Allotment has been completed for 12 districts.

◎ | Employment Exchange Management System (EEMS)

The EEMS software developed by NIC Gujarat has been customised for the employment exchange of Arunachal Pradesh. The software caters to the proper maintenance of the employment exchange live register, submission list, vacancy list, etc. It has been implemented as a pilot project at the Naharlagun Employment Exchange. After that, the same will be replicated in other employment exchanges of the state.

◎ | 7th All India School Educational Survey

This project is being implemented in the state with support of the State government. Data collection, master list creation, data entry and validation work has been completed.



Transport Computerization Project

Under this project, the VAHAN and SARATHI software, developed by NIC HQ is being utilised for computerization of Vehicle Registration and Driving Licence system. Initially, the project has been implemented at RTO, Papumpare District and RTO Lohit District on pilot basis.

Joint Entrance Exam Result Web Hosting

JEE Result processing and web hosting are carried out every year by NIC Arunachal for the Department of Higher and Technical Education. The results are hosted on the official website of the state government.

Web Based Income Certificate Issue Software

NIC Arunachal has developed web based Income Certificate Issue software. The certificate is issued based on Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey and is required for BPL ration card, availing stipend by students etc. At present, it has been implemented at CICs of Tawang and East Siang District.

Arunachal Helicopter Service Seat Booking System

It has been developed by NIC Arunachal for the Department of Civil Aviation, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. The system helps the department to handle helicopter bookings efficiently and minimise the manual documentation work of the department. The web-based software is user friendly, has provision for reports on daily sales/revenue collection, confirmed/waitlisted passenger list etc. Training has been imparted to the officials and software has been implemented on a standalone server at Naharlagun Helipad.

eSuidha

The project initiated by NIC HQ has been developed for computerizing the front office of Block, District and State administration/departments. This helps the administration in providing timely and efficient citizen services to the people. The system provides the applicant with auto-generated acknowledgement, mentioning the approximate date for the delivery of the required service. It has been implemented in CICs of East Siang District.

Secretariat LAN

The Arunachal Pradesh Civil Secretariat consists of about 37 office buildings spread

across an area of about 0.25 sq km. The Internet connectivity to most of the department and officials were provided in the past through dial up connection. On request of the State Government, NIC prepared the project proposal for Wireless based LAN in the Secretariat Complex and its annexe. The project has been funded by North Eastern Council, Shillong and executed by NIC. The LAN is designed for connecting more than 300 nodes, out of which about 100 have already been activated. The network is provided with Zone-wise centralised UPS. The LAN is connected to the NIC router having 2Mbps leased circuit connectivity. The 256Kbps SCPC VSAT data link acts as backup in case of leased line failure. It is envisaged to implement some LAN based applications for use of Secretariat Administration. To begin with, File Monitoring System has been deployed on a server.

Website Development

For a remote state like Arunachal Pradesh, websites are an important interface for the Government to showcase its activities and interact with the citizens. The Official website of the State, <http://arunachalpradesh.nic.in> has been launched along with websites of 11 districts that provide varied services and information. Government press release, activities of various departments, information on tourism, biodiversity, medicinal plants, tribes,



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sh G Apang inaugurating the website of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in Presence of H.E. Governor Sh. S K Singh

telephone Directory, and downloadable forms are available on these websites. NIC is also providing technical help to many other departments in developing and hosting their websites.

Web Based MIS For PHED

Web Based MIS for PHED is a major computerization project of the state for which the software development part has been entrusted to NIC/NICSI. Software Design and Development work has been carried out using UML tools under .Net framework, following 3-tier architecture. The project is funded by the Union Ministry of Rural Development under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission Project. The modules covered under the



MoU signing between NIC/NICSI and PHED, Arunachal Pradesh. Dr. Y K Sharma, DDG, NIC, Sh. G Padu, CE PHED, Sh K C Dwivedi, former MD NICSI can be seen in the photograph

project are Revenue Collection, Complaint Monitoring, Water Source and Asset Management, Water Quality Management, Material and Stores Management, Habitation Survey Status, Scheme and Programme Management, Equipment Information System, Contractor and Supplier Information System, Personnel and Payroll, Finance and Work Accounting. Presently, the application is under testing and training for 3 batches of employees of PHED has already been conducted.

BPL Computerization

NIC Arunachal is helping the Department of Rural Development in getting the BPL Survey data validated, merged and compiled for all blocks. A software is also being developed for generating various queries and reports required by the department.

Computer Training Centre

A state-of-the-art computer training centre of NIC Arunachal has been established at the Civil Secretariat. The centre caters to the computer training needs of State Govt departments/employees and skill enhancement of NIC employees. A training schedule has



been prepared to conduct training in a planned and effective manner.

● | Augmentation of Secretariat LAN

The Secretariat Wireless LAN is being extended to the HODs of different departments by a project entrusted to NIC/NICSI by Department of Information Technology (DIT). Under this project various departments located outside the Secretariat will be connected using wireless LAN. The wireless nodes will share the existing 2 MBPS leased line gateway connectivity of NIC.

● | Sub-Division Network Project

Under this project, the 23 sub-divisions of the state will have network/Internet connectivity. The sites will either have VSAT connectivity or LAN extension, depending upon distance from the nearest CIC. This project will give a boost to e-Governance in the state as many of the Govt. services are offered through SDO offices.

● | State Data Centre

A data centre consisting of Secured Network Infrastructure and Storage Area Network (SAN) is being set up in the Civil Secretariat by NIC. Under the State Data Center, it is envisaged to have a state level Application, Database, Mail and Web server along with firewall and authentication server. The



Sh. D K Debnath, SIO presenting a report 'A Profile of CICs in Arunachal Pradesh' to the then Minister for IT, Sh. T L Rajkumar during valedictory session of a DONER sponsored training programme

capacity of data centre will be 1 TB.

● | Community Information Centre

The establishment of CICs has extended the reach of the IT revolution to this region and has a potential to boost all-round development of the state. People from all walks of life namely, students, doctors,

teachers, engineers, Govt. officials, businessmen, and general public utilise CICs for their various needs. Some of the services being offered at the CIC are E-mail/Internet, computer awareness trainings, conducting online examinations for CCC course of DOEACC, Govt. to Citizen (G2C) Services such as eSuvidha, Income Certificate issue, BPL survey computerization etc. Local job advertisement is also disseminated through CIC websites. The state government has fixed nominal fees for the services provided by the CICs.

● | AGMARKNET

The NICNET Based Agricultural Marketing Information Network (AGMARKNET) facilitates all Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) to disseminate market information for the benefit of farmers and other target groups. AGMARKNET has been implemented in Arunachal Pradesh where six APMCs (Itanagar, Pasighat, Tawang, Roing, Tezu and Ziro) are covered under the project, and as part of the expansion programme, networking of another five APMCs (Miao, Along, Daporijo, Bomdila and Khonsa) and State Agriculture Marketing Board is underway.

● | Support of NIC and CIC during elections

The conduct of Elections in Arunachal Pradesh is always an uphill task due to acute communication bottlenecks resulting from geographical vastness and difficult terrain of the state. The State and District administrations get important assistance from the NIC Units, which act as information hub during the elections. The CICs are also pressed into service for assisting in the election process under the technical guidance of NIC officers.

Moreover, NIC has hosted the website of the Chief Electoral Officer <http://ceoarunachal.nic.in>, and also contributes in election result transmission under NIC-Doordarshan election result transmission project. All this has enabled in overcoming the difficulties and conduct the elections in a more efficient way.

● | Video-Conferencing

In Arunachal Pradesh, one Video Conferencing Studio is functioning at State Civil Secretariat Complex, Itanagar and similar facilities are coming up at all 16 District HQ of the state and one at the Raj Bhawan.

● | Web Services

The website registration and hosting for state government departments is done presently at state-of-the-art NIC HQ web servers. Remote updation facilities are also being provided to the user departments over VPN. NIC Arunachal also undertakes web application development on request from government departments.

● | E-Mail and Internet

NIC provides Internet connectivity and e-mail services to government departments. Till now more than 300 e-mail accounts at the local e-mail server <http://arun.nic.in> have been created for government officials. The mail server is available 24 X 7. It is worth mentioning that the NIC district centres are helping the district administration in various computerization activities, training, Internet connectivity, CIC management and other ICT support. Some district centres have developed and implemented applications like Inner Line Permit, Trade License, Arms License, Succession Certificate etc. Activities of NIC in the state have created an atmosphere for implementation of e-Governance and have paved the way for the State Government and administration to do more in this area.

For further information, contact:

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Santosh Kumar Shukla, Madhya Pradesh correspondent

HOSHANGABAD - On ICT Roadmap



Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh is a beautiful place situated at the banks of Narmada River in the southern valley of Vindhya Hills. The district is rich in natural resources and is historically important too. NIC Hoshangabad was established in the year 1989 and since then it has been providing ICT related services to the District Administration as well as other government departments. Some of the prominent activities of the District Centre include providing support during Parliamentary and Assembly Elections, implementation of AGMARKNET, Bhu-Abhilekh Software, 11 Points Programme, conducting computer awareness programmes for District Administration, etc.

11 Points Programme: Under this programme, a village level database has been created, which is used to generate reports that help the District Administration to improve citizen centric services and for tracking the status regarding functioning of hand pumps, transformers, 'aganbadis', schools, primary health centers, PDS shops, veterinary facility etc. Status of pending land demarcation / transfer cases, social welfare pension cases, progress of scholarship distribution and availability of agriculture resources are also being tracked through this programme.

AGMARKNET: AGMARKNET has been implemented in the Itarsi and Piparia Krishi Upaj Mandi of the district. It provides information pertaining to agricultural sector like daily rates of agricultural commodities, market trends, government schemes etc.

Land Records Computerization: Bhu-Abhilekh software (version 2.0) has been successfully implemented in all the seven tehsils of the district. Farmers now get computer-generated copies of Khasra and B1 forms.

Zila Panchayat Computerization: A software for the computerization of Below Poverty Line Survey Data and for generation of various reports/queries related to the beneficiaries of various government schemes has been implemented in the Zila Panchayat Office.

Time Limit Monitoring System: A software for Time Limit Papers has been successfully implemented in the Collectorate Office for weekly review of the action on official communications.

e-Works Monitoring System: It is a web-based system for on-line data entry of infrastructure works like road, buildings etc sanctioned for the district. The system is password protected. However, the reports are accessible to everyone on the district website <http://hoshangabad.nic.in>. A District Infrastructure Cell (DIC) has been constituted which is responsible for gathering the information related to sanctioned works as well as to update it on the district website.

Inauguration of Video Conferencing: Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Babu Lal Gaur



Hon'ble CM of Madhya Pradesh Sh. Babulal Gaur interacting with officers of District Administration using NIC's Video Conferencing service

inaugurated video conferencing facility at the district via video conferencing some time back. This was multi-point video conferencing in

which the Hon'ble Chief Minister, prominent officials of the State Government, divisional commissioners and district collectors took part.

Revenue Recovery Certificate (RRC) System: RRC System provides the accountability in the monitoring of revenue recovery in the district. District administration can easily monitor revenue recovery and status of various related cases. Various reports like department-wise, bank-wise, tehsil-wise, scheme-wise and district-wise can also be generated through the system.

Web Services: The official website of Hoshangabad <http://hoshangabad.nic.in> has been designed and hosted on the NIC Web Server.



NIC Hoshangabad regularly supports the updation of the content of the website which is provided by the District Administration. A link is also provided from the district website for e-monitoring of infrastructure works going-on in the district.

Other Activities: NIC Hoshangabad has extended NICNET facility through dial-up and LAN to District Collector's Office, Jan Sewa Kaksha, Land Record Office and 14 other departments. General computer awareness and need-based computer training programmes are regularly conducted for district officials. Payroll processing software has been successfully implemented in various offices of the district. NIC district center has provided complete IT support during assembly and parliamentary elections.

NIC Hoshangabad District Unit
District Informatics Officer
M.K.Sharma
District Informatics Associate
Rekha Jain

For further information please mail to hoshangabad@mp.nic.in



▶ Dayal Khandelwal, NIC HQ

NICNET Monitoring System

NIC's satellite-based nationwide ICT network 'NICNET' covering 35 State/UT Secretariats, 602 District Centers and more than 1000 Blocks, is the largest of its kind in the country with more than 2500 VSAT Nodes. The network supports the provision of various ICT related services by the government.

NICNET has been offering network services

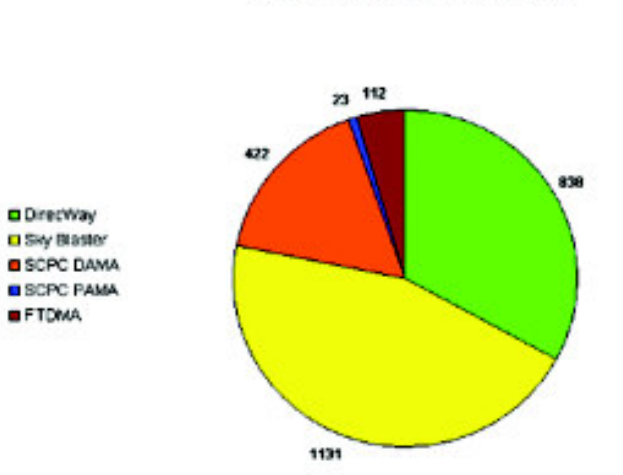
over Ku-band VSATs (SCPC DAMA, Broadband VSATs (DVB)), Wireless Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) and Local Area Networks (LANs) with NICNET gateway for Internet resources. NIC is also providing video conferencing services from around 400 cities all across India over NICNET. This is the largest video conferencing network in India, spread across the length and breadth of the country. The video conferencing facilities are

already being provided in all districts of 18 states and these are being widely utilised by the various State and UT Governments.

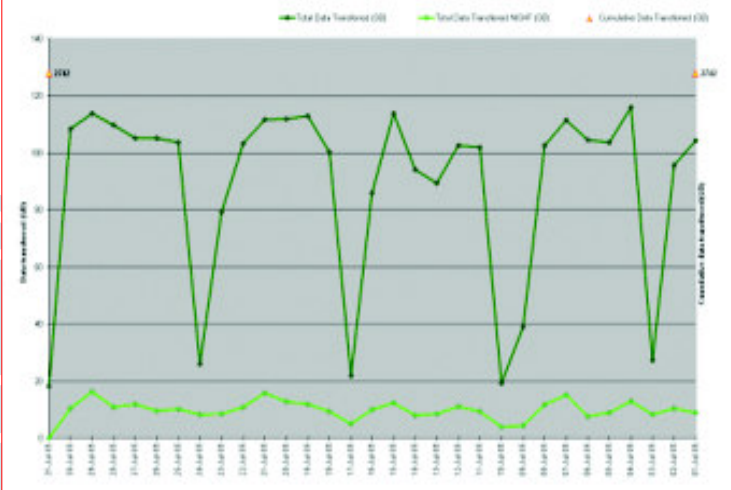
NIC has in-house Multipoint Conference Server (MCS) which enables multiple sites to participate in a live conference. NIC also has capabilities to provide video conferencing services using mobile video conferencing VSAT to the NICNET user domain.

Rapid growth and vast expansion of the satellite network has increased the need to put in place, the tools for monitoring and evaluation of network performance. In the initial stages, all monitoring was done using stand alone systems and users did not have

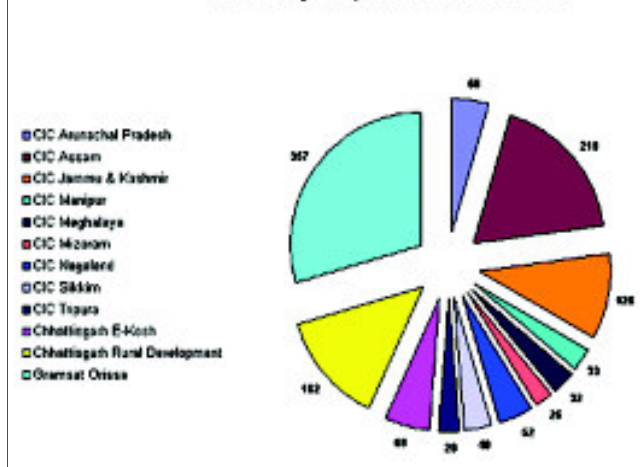
NICNET VSATS (Technology wise)



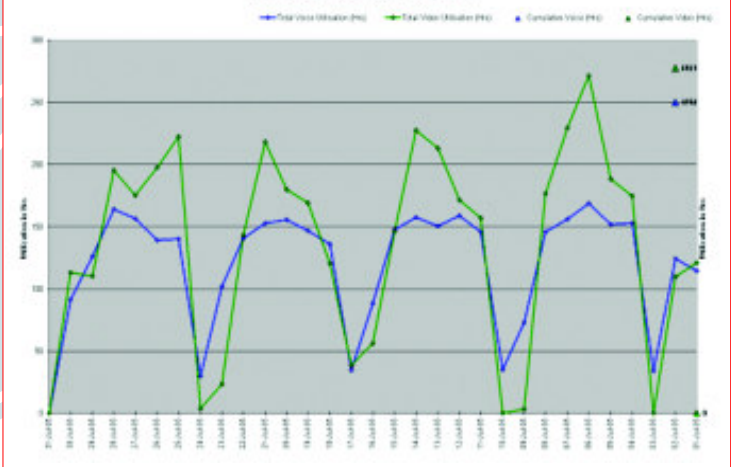
Data transferred through NICNET during July 2005



NICNET Projects up to Block level in 11 states



Video Conferencing Utilization (Mins) of NICNET during July 2005





any means to evaluate the performance of their VSAT. **SATCOM Division of NIC has developed a set of tools to facilitate all users to monitor the performance of their VSAT as well as to enable better management of large network projects.** These tools allow the users to check availability and data usage of each VSAT on a daily basis, check the current online status of VSAT and get the details of the throughput of a VSAT for last 12 hrs which is available in different formats including graphical reports. All these reports are available on the website of the SATCOM Division <http://satcom.nic.in/>. The information can be accessed through the link 'NICNET Reports' on the main page of this website .

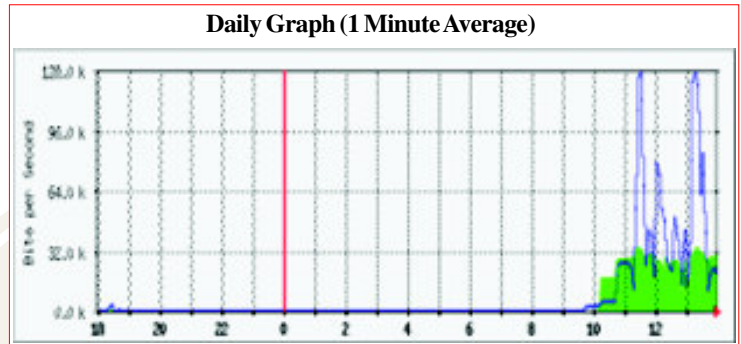
projects are also available. This helps the user to examine and analyse patterns of usage as well as availability and downtime of their respective VSATs.

● | **Online Health Monitoring System for VSATs**

Real time information has been provided using a WEB based Online Health Status monitoring system for VSATs. The system has been implemented with clickable

● | **Online Traffic (Current utilization) Monitoring Tool**

A Multi Router Traffic Grapher (MRTG) web



based tool is available, which provides online data throughput of every VSAT that is operated on NICNET. It also indicates any abnormal traffic either in transmission or reception, which helps the user to identify and analyse virus or spam traffic that flows through a specific VSAT. Any abnormal pattern can be analysed and problems can be addressed effectively.

The main objective of providing these tools is to enable the users to evaluate performance of their VSATs themselves. SIOs, HODs, Project Coordinators and individual users can use the reports and tools for availing enhanced services from the NICNET.

For more information, mail to customer-relations@lsmgr.nic.in



● | **NICNET Reports**

NICNET reports provide a means to the user to graphically view Network availability / Utilisation / Data transferred / On-line or Off-line status / Voice and Video utilization etc (for both current month and previous month). Each user can check the utilization of a particular VSAT. Moreover summary reports based on networks and major

maps, which can drill down to a specific VSAT of the user's interest. Through this system, one can easily know the number of online/offline VSATs of a state or a particular project. Project Coordinators can use this tool to keep track of the online or offline VSATs at a particular point of time. It gives a good indication of actual usage and can be used to take corrective measures in case any problem occurs.

Call for Articles
 Readers are invited to contribute articles for this and other sections of *Informatics*. The articles may be sent to,
The Editor, Room No. 379, 3rd floor NIC, Headquarters, A Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
 Email: sonal@nic.in



V S Raghunathan, NIC Kerala

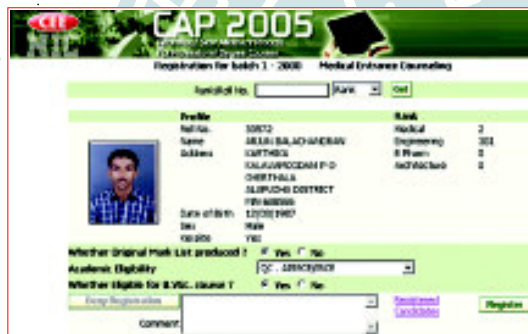
Centralised Allotment Process in Kerala

Centralised Allotment Process (CAPNIC), a software developed by NIC Kerala State Unit helps in conducting counselling for the allotment of seats for the professional courses in the state. The web-enabled software is aimed at conducting counselling from multiple locations so that the candidates need not travel all the way to Thiruvananthapuram for this purpose. The system is in open source LAMP model that makes it a cost effective and robust one. The software has been developed by taking care of all the existing rules of reservations and floating seat concept.

Scope of CAPNIC

The system is being used for allotment of seats for Medical, Engineering, B.Pharm, and Architecture courses. This year about 3200 seats in medical stream, 13000 seats in engineering stream, 60 seats in architecture and 1100 seats in B.Pharm were allotted using CAPNIC. The System takes care of the following activities:

- Registration of Candidates for Counselling
- Vacancy list Generation
- Seat Allotment
- Higher Option List Generation
- Fee Collection
- Memo printing
- On-line display – Vacancy/Allotment status.
- Re-allotment of seat based on the higher options received from the candidates and availability of seats



Screenshot of Allotment Window on CAPNIC software

Central Allotment Process

The allotment process is carried out from three Counselling centres located at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode. The candidates are called in the order of their ranks. The system provides a maximum of 20 options to the candidates for selecting an institute of his/her choice. If the candidate could earmark his/her choice out of the preferences, he/she will be allotted the seat asked or else he/she may withdraw from the counselling. Alternatively, a candidate can also give higher options in case he would like to go for better options. After the seat is allotted, an allotment slip is generated, indicating the fee required to be paid by the candidate as per the institution or as per the category of the candidate.

Infrastructure for the System

For implementing the CAPNIC system, the Main Server and the Backup Server is placed in office of the Commissioner of Entrance Examinations (CEE). Second Backup Server is placed in the NIC office. Data from the main server is replicated to the backup servers. A 2 Mbps leased line connects all counselling centres and the NIC centre to the CEE office.

For more information, mail to sio@kerala.nic.in

Tasiruddin Ahmed, Assam Correspondent

'SANWAD' : An e-governance initiative

SANWAD, an ambitious project of Sivasagar District Administration to offer E-governance services to its citizens was launched recently by Hon'ble Transport Minister of Assam Sh. Anjan Dutta. The Project has been conceived and designed by the District Administration with the help of NIC Sivasagar District Unit. The project is planned to be implemented in all the sub-divisions of the district under the supervision of a District Level Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner.

Under this project, an IT Kiosk will be set up in each Gram Panchayat and Ward by selected operators. District Unit of NIC will give the operators training for 15 days. The Kiosks that will consist of a Computer, Printer, Digital Camera, Telephone, Photocopier etc, will provide multidimensional citizen services and business communication facilities.

At the 'SANWAD Kendra', citizens can apply for various services like Land Sale Permission, Permanent Residential Certificate, Legal Heir Certificate, Bakjiai Clearance Certificate, Copy of Jamabandi (Land Revenue Record), etc. Applications for these services will be received at the Kiosk and the applicant will be given a printed receipt with application ID. KIOSK operators will arrange to send all the applications received by them through special messenger to the office of the Deputy Commissioner. The applicants can collect the certificates from Kiosk on a specified date by producing the receipt/application ID. Applicants can also check the status of their applications by entering their application ID online. The entire process will be strictly time bound.

Apart from this, some other services offered through 'SANWAD Kendra' are as follows: -

schemes including MPLAD/MLALAD schemes.

- Details of Self Help Groups and NGOs.
- District wise weather report.
- Email and Internet for accessing services such as E-mail, Railway Reservation, Examination Results, Flight Schedule, News Papers, etc.
- Tender Notification/Employment News.
- Prices and other market information of Agricultural produce.
- E-POST/Public Telephone
- Online Public Grievance Redressal—through voicemail or direct interface.
- Computer Training.
- DTP Facility, Typing, Photostat
- Digital Photography: Passport Photograph
- Scanning and CD writing facility.

These services, including delivery of different certificates etc. have already started through all 9 Community Information Centres (CIC) in the district with the launch of the project.

For more details, mail to sibsagar@nic.in



► M G Kiran, Former Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Govt. of Sikkim

SIKKIM : A land of e-Literates



Imbued with a mystic aura and tranquility, Sikkim is a land of enchanting natural beauty that attracts tourists from all over the country and abroad. The State is fast becoming a favourite IT destination as it offers good

infrastructure and skilled manpower, besides good law and order situation and a proactive Government. In Sikkim, NIC State Centre was established in 1993, which paved the way for spreading computer awareness among the masses. A separate Department of Information Technology (DIT) was created in the state in the Year 2000 - the first of its kind in the North Eastern Region.

Today, ICT has become a buzzword here, with people becoming more aware of the benefits accruing with the use of ICT enabled services. Computer equipments and Internet facilities are extensively available in the state as well as 'surfing' and 'e-Learning' have entered the lexicon of common usage.

● | Community Information Centres (CICs)

Forty CICs that have been established across Sikkim, are taking ICTs and related services to the grassroots. Difficult terrain that posed the biggest challenge to IT penetration, has been overcome and IT has become universally accessible in the state. The CICs are equipped with modern ICT peripherals such as computers, printers and a direct satellite link for accessing Internet. The setup has helped in linking remote inaccessible destinations of this mountainous state where even roads don't reach.

In addition to the establishment of ICT infrastructure, this initiative has been further strengthened with extensive computer training programmes to equip people with the know-how of using and deploying ICT. A wide range of people have attended these training sessions including school students, housewives, farmers, monks and youths.

The twenty most remote CICs have also been provided with business communication facilities like Photocopiers, Lamination, Comb Binding and PCO facilities with assistance from the North Eastern Council. In line with the Government's decision to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System, the day to day running of the CICs has been handed over to local committees headed by the respective Panchayat Presidents.

● | Citizen Centric Websites

Apart from the official website of Sikkim, <http://www.sikkim.gov.in>, a number of other citizen centric websites have also been hosted by the DIT that include websites of Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Social Welfare Department, Animal Husbandry Department, Health and Family Welfare Department, Rural Development Department etc. The websites are a major step towards e-governance as they act as an interface between the citizens and the government.

● | MIS and Software Development in the Government

• **Software Cell:** An in-house Software Cell has been set up in the DIT to assist the computerization process of government departments. The Software Cell attends to software problems that are faced by various departments as well as rectifies networking faults and co-ordinate implementation of various software packages. The cell also handles development and maintenance of departmental websites.

• **Check post:** For monitoring movement of goods, livestock, passengers and tourists in Sikkim, the interstate border check-posts at Rangpo and Melli have been computerized and linked through V-SAT.

• **State Library:** A customized inventory software (Library Information System) has been developed for the State Library at Gangtok.

• **Land Records:** Sikkim has already computerized Land Records in all the districts and sub-divisions. Now, computerized certificates relating to land records are issued with assistance from NIC and DIT.

● | Trainings and Courses for IT Enabled Services

The DIT, since its inception, has supported NIC's role of spreading computer awareness among government servants. DIT has encompassed a wide spectrum of courses for Government Departments and local unemployed youth, many of which are career oriented. To facilitate the progress of these courses, two multipurpose training centres have been established - one at Gangtok covering East and North districts and another at Namchi covering South and West Districts. The Department has been conducting training courses for call centres too with an aim that ICT should also generate employment on a regular basis.

● | Total Computer Literacy Campaign

The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the total Computer Literacy Campaign on the 17th of September 2004 with the objective to make Sikkim a completely computer literate State. The special feature of this program is the attempt to make even illiterate people computer literate through icon-based programs.

● | IT For the Physically Challenged

The Department is also bringing substantial changes to the lives of the physically challenged. A computer centre for the blind has been established at Namchi with four computers, four Braille printers and one Juliet pro. The Department is also working on the use of IT for the people suffering from cerebral palsy.

● | STPI

In order to provide high bandwidth connectivity to investors, a Software Technology Park has also been setup at Gangtok, the capital of the State. In a short span, Sikkim has placed itself prominently on the IT Map of India. Steady backbone, spatial database etc. are the future areas, which shall be the focus of the State.

Sikkim is committed to keeping pace with the fast-developing world of ICT. This commitment backed up by the ready availability of required infrastructure and the improved human resources make the state a promising IT investment destination. Sikkim stands proud as the perfect example of complete coherence between the IT Department and NIC; the two have joined hands and shared resources to bring ICT solutions not only to Government Departments, but to the entire population of the State.

For details, please mail to mkgkiran@hotmail.com



► Dr. Savita Dawar & Antony C J, NIC HQ

Open Source and Open Standards

Open Source is used to describe an open process of software development in which source code is made available for use or modifications by the users or other developers so as to enhance or customize the software for their own purposes. Open Standards represent common agreements that enable communications and are available for all to read and implement. Often, open source development makes use of open standards for operating systems or software development tools, but the purpose of open source is to support continuous software improvement while the purpose of open standards is to support common agreements that enable communications that is available to all. Some of the prominent open domain tools and technologies are discussed below:

● | Java Technology

Java Technology has brought about a fundamental shift in the way applications are developed and deployed by assimilating platform independent execution into the

hardware platforms. Different types of JVMs are available that cater to specialised needs of development and deployment in terms of computing power, network capabilities, memory, storage etc. Java3D provides easy-to-use high level constructs to develop interactive and animated graphical applications that can be deployed on virtually all environments. It targets a wide spectrum of three-dimensional application environments like Virtual Reality Systems, 3D Games, CAD Systems etc. where the basic Java principle of "Write Once, Run Anywhere" is demonstrated in letter and spirit.

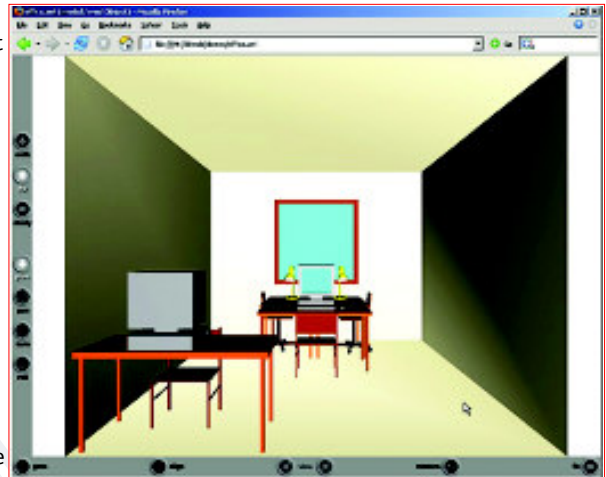
● | PostgreSQL

PostgreSQL is a time tested open source relational database system with a proven architecture that ensures reliability, scalability and data integrity. It supports ANSI SQL 92/99 standards and runs on all major operating systems. Postgres has all the ingredients needed for an enterprise database system like point in time recovery, save points for nested transactions, online backups, asynchronous replication, support for multibyte character encoding and unicode. It supports storage of large binary objects like images, audio and video and has interface for most of the programming and scripting languages. Postgres has the most liberal open source license (called the BSD license), which grants freedom to use, modify, and re-distribute the source code in any form (open / closed).

● | Extensible Markup Language (XML)

XML, a World Wide Web Consortium standard,

is a markup language for documents containing structured information. XML is used to describe data and focuses on what the data is, while HTML is used to display data and to focus on how data looks like. XML was created to structure, store and to send information. XML enables the exchange of structured information over the World Wide



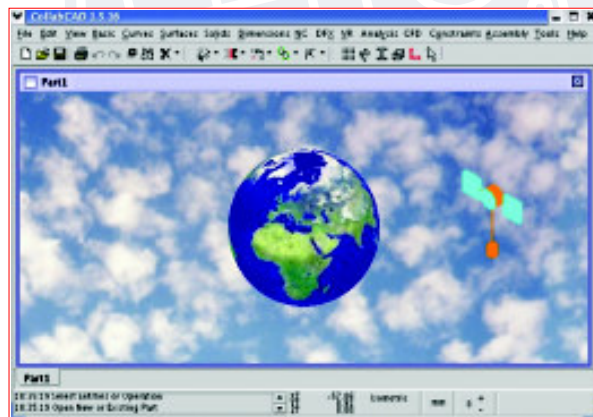
Peep into a VRML world

Web or the corporate intranet, for further manipulation, processing and storage. The ability of XML to combine data with information describing its structure makes it incredibly useful as a data exchange technology. It is fast becoming the standard for data interchange on the Web.

● | Virtual Reality Modeling Language (VRML)

VRML can be considered as a three dimensional equivalent of HTML. It is a modeling language for describing three-dimensional objects and multi-participant interactive simulations. It also specifies the appearance of these objects and other properties such as lighting. A VRML world may be animated and highly interactive or be entirely static. Worlds may be based on real places or objects or be totally imaginary or abstract. To view a VRML world, a stand-alone VRML viewer or a plug-in to a Web browser is required. VRML97, an international standard (ISO/IEC-14772-1:1997), is the current version of VRML and is the equivalent of VRML2.0.

For further details, please mail to savita.dawar@nic.in



Satellite animation using Java3D in CollabCAD

realm of network computing. It allows development of enterprise-worthy programs that can run on a wide variety of platforms extending from servers to hand held devices and smart cards. Java platform is basically a software platform (often called Java Virtual Machine - JVM) running over multiple



CYBER GOVERNANCE

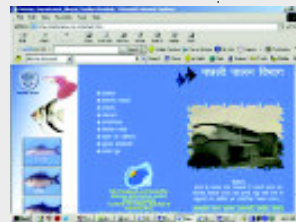
A glimpse of some of the new websites/portals launched on NIC's web servers.....

<http://hareda.gov.in>

launch of HAREDA website, Haryana : Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Sh. Bhupinder Singh Hooda launched the website of Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA) on the eve of Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Divas at Gurgaon on 20th August,

2005. The website has been designed and developed by NIC Haryana State Centre. It provides detailed information on various Non-Conventional Energy Programmes being run by HAREDA, Energy Conservation and Village Electrification Programme beside giving details about various devices being promoted by the department. The website also cover details on various incentives being given by the department to panchayats etc.

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

<http://mpfisheries.nic.in>

Website of Department of Fisheries, MP : The official website of the Department of Fisheries, Madhya Pradesh, which is designed and developed by NIC Madhya Pradesh State Centre has been launched recently. The main objective of the department is to create and develop infrastructure as well as new techniques for fishing, to establish various centres across the state for the better cultivation of eggs, etc. The website is in Hindi and contains useful information related to objectives, organizational structure, various schemes, citizen charter, telephone directory etc. pertaining to the Fisheries Department.

Santosh Shukla, Madhya Pradesh Correspondent

<http://rajrojgar.nic.in>

Website of Employment Department, Rajasthan : Website of the Employment Department of Rajasthan was inaugurated recently by Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena, Hon'ble Minister for Food & Civil Supplies, Disaster Management (Rajasthan). Through this website jobseekers will get latest

information concerned with employment and can also obtain information relating to fortnightly Employment News, Registration Forms, Circulars of the Department, Nagrik Adhikar Patra, Rojgar Melas, List of Registered Placement Agencies etc. The website also contains messages from the Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers and other State Ministers.

Deepak Bhargava, Rajasthan Correspondent

<http://skipa.nic.in>

Website of Sri Krishna Institute of Public Administration, Ranchi : Website of Sri Krishna Institute of Public Administration



(SKIPA), Ranchi that has been designed and developed by NIC Jharkhand State Centre was launched on 27th August by Smt. Laxmi Singh, Director General, SKIPA. The senior officials and staff of the institute were present on the occasion. The website provides an

overview of the institute and has details about various training programmes run by it.

Prashant Belwarier, Jharkhand Correspondent

<http://dnh.nic.in>

Official website of Dadra & Nagar Haveli : Website of the UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli was inaugurated on the eve of 59th Independence Day by Sh. Arun Mathur, Administrator (Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli). The inauguration function was presided over by Sh. Mohanbhai Delkar, Member of Parliament and other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sh. Keshubhai Patel, Chairman District Panchayat, Sh. Dharmendra, Development Commissioner, Sh. Bansal, Finance Secretary, Sh. X L Mahto District Collector, Sh. Chandrashekar, Chief Officer Silvassa Municipal Council etc. The website has been designed and developed by NIC Silvassa and its content has been coordinated by Sh. Santosh Kumar, Director (IT). The website provides valuable information about the UT and various services provided by the Administration, which would benefit the citizens as well as the tourists.

Milind D. Talnikar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli Correspondent



<http://orissa.gov.in/dsys>

Website of the Directorate of Sports & Youth Services, Orissa :



Website of the Directorate of Sports & Youth Services, Bhubaneswar was launched on the eve of Dhyana Chand's Birth Anniversary on 29th August. It was inaugurated by Sh. Debasis Nayak,

Hon'ble Minister of Information & Public Relations and Sports & Youth Services. The website contains information on Sports and Youth Services Department that includes details about infrastructure, associations, sports competitions, grants to outstanding sports person, pension schemes, scholarships and awards to sports personnel, sports hostels, rules and regulations, etc.

R N Behera, NIC (Portal Group) Orissa

<http://pibtvm.gov.in>

Website of Press Information Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram :



The website for Press Information Bureau (PIB) Kerala, which is developed by NIC Kerala State Centre was inaugurated recently by Sh. P H Kurian, IT Secretary, Kerala. Sh. Anand Singh, Director IT Mission, Sh. Kesavan, Dy. Principal Information Officer, PIB, staff

of PIB and NIC Kerala attended the function. The website is developed using the Open Source Content Management Tool Mambo. The website is in Malayalam and its content is updated by PIB Thiruvananthapuram and Kochin Offices.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

<http://jhr.nic.in/cfs>

Website of the Centre for Fiscal Studies, Ranchi :



The Centre for Fiscal Studies (CFS), Ranchi has gone online with the launch of its website on 16th August by Mr. George Deikun, Mission Director, USAID, India. Sh. Raghubar Das, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Jharkhand was the

Chief Guest at the occasion. Sh. Rahul Sarin, Secretary Finance, Jharkhand and Sh. P P Sharma, Chief Secretary and Chairman, Governing Body, CFS were present on the occasion along with officials of various government departments, USAID team, and media representatives. The website has been designed and developed by NIC, Jharkhand State Centre.

Prashant Belwarier, Jharkhand Correspondent

<http://rocgujarat.nic.in>

Website of ROC Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli



launched : The website of Registrar of Companies, Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli that has been designed, developed and hosted by NIC, was launched recently. The

website provides comprehensive information related to the department including Name Availability (for forming a new company or for changing the name of existing company), New Incorporation, Guidelines for Filing of Returns, Schedule of Fees, List of Registered Companies, Companies in Liquidation, etc.

Manoj P A, Gujarat Correspondent

<http://kurnool.ap.nic.in/rajivnagar.htm>



Website for Rajiv Nagara Baata launched, Andhra Pradesh : Dr. Y.S Raja Sekhar Reddy, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launched a website for Rajiv Nagara Baata of Kurnool District recently. The launching ceremony was organised by the District Magistrate and District Informatics Officer, Kurnool and was coordinated by the SIO Andhra Pradesh State Unit. The objective of this portal is to provide information to citizens about the municipalities in Kurnool district and their ongoing activities. The website has been designed and developed by the NIC District Unit, Kurnool and hosted by NIC Andhra Pradesh State Unit. The launching ceremony was attended by Sh. Kotla Jaya Surya Prakash Reddy, MP, Kurnool, Sh. Marreppa, Minister for Lift Irrigation, APIDC, Ground Water Development and Rain Shadow

Area Development, Sri Konathala Ramakrishna, Minister for Commercial Taxes, etc and senior officers from the State and Central Government departments.

Noor Jehan, NIC Andhra Pradesh



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.....

VC Services inaugurated in Himachal Pradesh

Sh. Virbhadr Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh recently inaugurated the Video Conferencing facility that has been setup by NIC in all the district headquarters of the state. The inauguration function was attended by a number of Cabinet Ministers and officials



VC Inauguration in HP

of the State Government including the Chief Secretary. Thiru. Dayanidhi Maran, Hon'ble Union Minister for Communications and IT, also participated in the function through VC and assured the Chief Minister to provide all possible help for development of ICT in the state.

The project implemented at a cost of over Rs. 3 crores includes the installation of VC studios in 10 districts and four tribal sub-divisions of Bharmour, Pangi, Pooh and Kaza. With this installation, Himachal Pradesh has become one of the few states in which all districts are interconnected through DAMA Video Conferencing Network.

Ajay Singh Chahal, HP Correspondent

BCWD Computerization in Bankura, WB

Backward Class Welfare Department (BCWD) of Bankura District in West Bengal has taken a major step towards e-governance by computerizing its day-to-day activities with technical support from the NIC Bankura District Centre. Sh. N K Das, Sr. Technical Director of NIC West Bengal State Centre formally handed over the software to Sh. P K Mishra, District Magistrate Bankura in a function organised by



the BCWD on 20th September. The computerization project would enable BCWD in timely Sanction of Post-Matric scholarship to students of SC, ST and OBC communities, as well as in detecting duplicate cases of applications, monitoring of fund utilization and reconciliation of bank statements etc.

M Rahman, West Bengal Correspondent

E-gov Centre inaugurated at Jaisinghpur in Kangra (HP)

Sh. Bharat Khara, Deputy Commissioner, Kangra inaugurated the Sub-Divisional E-Governance (Pehal) Centre, at Jasinghpur on 14th September. From this centre, services of Driving License and Vehicle Registration will be provided and later on other services like Property Registration,



Issuance of Land Records Copies, Arms License etc. will be made available. Jaisinghpur is the fifth Sub-Division of Kangra district after Dharamshala, Palampur, Kangra and Baijnath where these centres are already working.

Mukesh K Ralli, HP Correspondent

Live webcast of important events by NIC

With the advent of high-end streaming media technology, the concept of doing live/on-demand webcast has gained popularity as webcasting an event extends its reach to all corners of the world. Recently, NIC provided live webcast service for a number of national and international events, which are now available as video-on-demand on the website <http://webcast.nic.in>. Some of the important events that were webcast recently include:

- Indian Air Force Annual Day Parade on 8th October
- President's address to 6th Mizoram Legislative Assembly Session on 24th September
- PM's Address to the High level Plenary Meeting of 60th UN General Assembly on 15th September
- PM's Address to the National Integration Council
- International Conference on Physics Education
- Independence Day Celebrations
- Nehru Trophy Boat Race (Kerala)
- Tirupati Balaji Brahmotasavam Festival during 4th to 12th October

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

NIC facilitates review meeting in Ganjam, Orissa

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa visited Ganjam district on September 17th and reviewed the progress of various developmental work. In the review meeting Sh. S N Patra, Hon'ble Minister for IT (Orissa), other elected members and district level officers were present. The meeting was coordinated by Sh. Parag Gupta, Revenue Divisional Commissioner (South) and the review report was presented by Sh. Sanjay Singh, Collector, Ganjam district. All the technical assistance for conducting the meeting was provided by NIC under the supervision of Sh. R K Dash, TD NIC, RDC Office, Berhampur and Sh.





Subash Chandra Misra, DIO Ganjam.
A K Hota, Orissa Correspondent

◉ | **Workshop on 'E-Gov Initiatives in UP Transport Department'**

NIC UP State Unit conducted a one-day workshop for Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) at UP Transport Commissioner's Office, Lucknow on 5th of September. Sh. C B Paliwal, Transport Commissioner (UP), who was present in the meeting, lauded the efforts for computerization of UP Transport Department,



which is being done with the help of NIC. In the meeting a presentation on the on-going computerization project was given to the Transport Commissioner and ARTOs discussed various issues/problems related to the computerization project.

Y K Singh, NIC Uttar Pradesh

◉ | **Recent developments in AGMARKNET Project**

The AGMARKNET project is being implemented throughout the country on a priority basis and some of the recent activities regarding the project are as follows:

- NIC Jharkhand State Centre conducted a five-day workshop (5th-9th September) cum training program on AGMARKNET in which 20 officials including Market Secretaries and Supervisors from 13 Bazar Samitis of Jharkhand took part. At the end of the training program Sh. N L Singh, Senior Marketing Officer, DMI Ranchi presented the certificates to the participants.
- A state level AGMARKNET project review meeting was held on 23rd August at Dehradun. All the Secretaries of 20 Mandi Samities in the state participated in the meeting along with Sh. P S Kutiyal, Director Mandi Parishad, Sh. Rajesh Goyal, NIC-State AGMARKNET Project Coordinator, Sh. Rajendra Singh, A.A.M.A. (DMI, Dehradun) and other officials from Mandi

Parishad of Haldwani and DMI Dehradun.

- The Punjab Mandi Board has included the monthly review of AGMARKNET project as a compulsory activity in their agenda. Secretary, Punjab Mandi Board has issued instructions to conduct monthly review meetings with Secretary APMCs, ICT Core Team Members, respective DIOs and further apprise the NIC AGMARKNET State Coordinator and Nodal Officer from Punjab Mandi Board. Subsequently first meeting was conducted at District Ropar on 5th July and later at Patiala and Sangrur on 8th July. Prashant Belwarier, Jharkhand, Rajesh Goyal, Uttaranchal & Sarbjeet Singh, Punjab Correspondent

◉ | **NIC officials awarded on the eve of 59th Independence Day**

On the eve of 59th Independence Day, Sh. Avtar Henry, Hon'ble Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Punjab awarded Certificate of Merit and Medal to **Sh. Amolak Singh Kalsi**, Scientist - D and DIO (Jalandhar) and **Sh. Ranjit Singh**, Scientist - C and DIA (Jalandhar) for their outstanding achievement and commendable job in promoting Informatics culture in the district and providing ICT support to District Administration of Jalandhar. DIO Jind (Haryana), **Sh. M Z R Badr** was also honoured with citation on the occasion of Independence Day for his outstanding services to the District Administration.

Sarbjeet Singh, Punjab & Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

◉ | **Website and live webcast of Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Kerala**

Nehru Trophy Boat Race is an internationally acclaimed festival event of Kerala that has been taking place for the last 52 years. NIC Kerala launched the first official website of the



event, which was inaugurated recently by Sh. K C Venugopal, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and Devaswom, Kerala. NIC Web Services Division,

New Delhi also made a live webcast of the event. The Teleinformatics Development Promotion Programme Division supported providing live feed to the DD sports. The webcast is now available as video-on-demand on the website <http://nehrutrophy.nic.in>. The webcast received hits from over 18 countries across the world.

Asha Verma, Kerala Correspondent

◉ | **NIC support during President's visit to Sikkim**

During the visit of the HE the President of India, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam to Sikkim on 22nd September, NIC Sikkim established Wireless LAN in Raj Bhawan for providing Internet facility and a number of computers were also installed for the purpose. A team of officials from NIC Gangtok was deployed at the Raj Bhavan to ensure smooth running of the network operations.

On 21st September, a day before the President's visit, the official website of the Raj Bhavan <http://rajbhavansikkim.gov.in> was inaugurated by HE the Governor of Sikkim, Sh. V Rama Rao. Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Pawan Kr. Chamling, Cabinet Ministers and Secretaries of various departments were present at the inaugural function held at Raj Bhavan, Gangtok.

Vinita lakhotia, NIC Sikkim

◉ | **Total Computerization of Motor Vehicle Department, Kerala**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Sh. Oommen Chandy inaugurated the total computerization of Motor Vehicle Department on 6th of August at the RTO, Ernakulam. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sh. N Sakthan, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Sh. P Chandrasekharan, Transport Commissioner, Smt. Sheela Thomas, Transport Secretary, Sh. K P Somarajan, Chairman and MD, KSRTC, Sh. A P M Mohammed Haneesh, District Collector, Sh. Dinendra Kasyap, City Police Commissioner, Sh. V S Raghunathan, SIO etc.





SMART-MOVE developed by NIC is the software solution automating all the citizen centric procedures of the Motor Vehicle Department.
Asha Verma, Kerala Correspondent

VC facility inaugurated in Pondicherry

HE Sh. M M Lakhera, Lt. Governor of Pondicherry recently inaugurated the VC facility in Pondicherry at the chamber of Regional Administrator, Yanam. Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. N Rangasamy, Hon'ble Minister for Health,



Sh. E Valsaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Sh. A Namassivayam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Dr. P Ramadass, Sh. C S Khairwal, Chief Secretary and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion. Sh. A Venkatesan, STD and SIO, NIC Pondicherry, Sh. Sridharan, Joint Secretary, IT Dept, Govt of Pondicherry and others participated in the inauguration function through VC. The setup for VC facility has been established using ISDN line and VCON software with the technical support from NIC, Yanam.
Sivanandam S, Pondicherry Correspondent

NIC Mirzapur wins Manthan Award

The National Identity Card Software (NISANI) developed by NIC Mirzapur District Centre has been awarded The Manthan Gold Award 2005 in e-Governance category. Sh. Rajendra Prasad, DIO Mizapur, received the award at a function held in New Delhi on 23rd July this year. The software has also been nominated for the 'World Summit Award Global Contest - 2005' as the best e-Content example in e-Governance from India.

Anshu Rohatgi, Uttar Pradesh Correspondent

MoU signed between NIC Mizoram and PHED

An MoU has been signed recently between NIC Mizoram and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) regarding implementation of the project under Rajiv Gandhi National

Drinking Water (RGNDW) Mission. In the MoU signing meet, PHED was represented by Sh. Ropiang, Secretary PHED, Sh. J P Sinha, CE, Sh. Chawngnuna, EE, Shri Alan Lalthalura, AE whereas NIC was represented by Dr R P Saxena, DDG, Sh. C S Jairath, TD, Sh. T P Singh SIO and Smt. Hrangthanhliri, SSA. In this project, NIC Mizoram is providing consultancy to PHED and will also provide software solutions.
Lalmachhuani, Mizoram Correspondent

Test for Tax Assistants of SSC conducted with NIC support at Lucknow

On-line Data Entry Speed Test for Tax Assistants of Staff Selection Commission was successfully conducted recently at NIC Kendriya Bhawan, Lucknow. Around 800 candidates appeared in the



examination, and Lucknow was the largest centre in the country. Forty Internet-ready computers were installed at the examination site as a special arrangement for the test. The candidates were briefed, trained and provided with all technical assistance during the test.

Anshu Rohatgi, Uttar Pradesh Correspondent

CJI inaugurates District Court Computerization Project at Bilaspur

Sh. R C Lahoti, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India



(CJI) inaugurated the District Court Computerization project and District website of Bilaspur on the 24th of July. Sh. A K Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court and Dr N Vijayaditya, DG NIC were also present on the occasion along with other dignitaries. Terming computerization of Court system as the need of the hour, CJI in his address said that IT is the only tool that can increase the efficiency of the judicial system and preserve common man's confidence in it. He acknowledged the pivotal role played by NIC in such projects.

Y V Shreenivas Rao, Chhattisgarh Correspondent

Award of Excellence for DIO, Kanpur Dehat

Sh. Alok Tiwari, PSA and DIO, Kanpur Dehat has been awarded the 'Utkrishta Karmi Samman 2005' for his dedication and exemplary services in the field of IT in the District. At the felicitation ceremony, Sh. A K Goel, District Magistrate of Kanpur Dehat appreciated the excellent contribution of Mr. Tiwari in



implementing various e-governance projects in the district and presented him a memento and an appreciation letter.

Anshu Rohatgi, Uttar Pradesh Correspondent

South African Delegation visit Market Committee System in Haryana

A delegation from Agriculture Department of South Africa recently visited the Market Committees of Haryana namely Pipli and Thanesar in Kurukshetra district, to study the Market Committee System and to explore the possibility of implementing the same in South Africa. They were pleased to see the AGMARKNET web portal meant for dissemination of information for the benefit of farmers. Sh. Deepak Bansal, Technical Director, NIC gave a demonstration on transmission of data from market committee to AGMARKNET



portal. Sh. Lallan Rai, Assistant Agriculture Marketing Advisor, DMI, Sh. Alok Srivastava Scientist C, NIC along with DIO and DIA Kurukshetra accompanied the delegation during the visit to Market Committees.

Hari Chand, Haryana Correspondent

● | **Chandigarh bags 'Best e-Governance State' Award announced by CSI**

Close on the heels of the recognition of Chandigarh UT as one of the leaders in terms of e-Readiness by the Government of India, comes the "Best Overall e-Governance State" Award, announced by the Computer Society of India (CSI). Sh. Vivek Atray, Director Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration and Sh. Vivek Verma, PSA NIC had made a presentation recently before the Awards Committee that consisted of senior Government officials and technical experts. All e-Governance initiatives of the Administration, including the e-Sampark Project that has already been awarded the Golden Icon Award by the Government of India and the forthcoming Jan Sampark Project (IT for Society), were highlighted before the Committee.

Vivek Verma, Chandigarh Correspondent

● | **Public Grievance Redress Counter Inaugurated at Idukki**

The newly constructed Public Grievance Redress Counter at Idukki has been inaugurated recently by Sh. Roshi Augustin, Hon'ble MLA of Idukki. The Counter is equipped with a Computer and peripherals with LAN/Internet connection. NIC Idukki District Unit extends full software support for the counter.

When a person files a grievance petition at the



counter, a computer-generated receipt is issued to the petitioner showing the details including a petition registration number. The petition is then forwarded to the concerned officer or department.

Once a reply is received from the concerned department, the same is fed in the computer and a computer-generated reply form is sent to the petitioner by post. All the letters are generated in Malayalam.

Asha Varma, Kerala Correspondent

● | **Attari border equipped to provide computerized quarantine services**

In a major initiative towards e-governance, Regional Plant Quarantine Station (RPQS) in Rajasansi, Amritsar has been providing computerized services for the last two years with the help of Application Registration Software (ARS) and Quarantina Software developed by NIC under DACNET project. RPQS Rajasansi provides quarantine services to prevent entry of exotic pests in to the country. The services provided by the department include issuance of Phyto Sanitary Certificate (PSC) for Export Import Permit (IP) and Import Release Order (IRO) for import of agriculture commodity and plant materials. The same e-governance application has been implemented



at Attari border since June this year. Data generated by both ARS and Quarantina software is transmitted regularly to RPQs and the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage Headquarters where it is analysed to improve plant quarantine service.

Sarbjeet Singh, Punjab Correspondent

● | **E-Granthalaya Software Demonstrated at NIC Nagaland State Unit**

The software 'E-Granthalaya' developed by NIC Bangalore was demonstrated recently at NIC Nagaland State Unit, Kohima to the officers and staffs of the following Department:

- State Library, Kohima
- Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat
- High Court, Kohima Bench
- Nagaland University
- State IT Department, Kohima

The participants appreciated the software and NIC Nagaland has provided it to the State



Library Department for implementation. Swedesenuo Natso, Nagaland Correspondent

● | **Course on Rojgar Mitra Software at NIC, Pune**

A course on Rojgar Mitra Software was organised at Training Division, NIC Pune for the officers of the Pune Division of Department of Employment and Self Employment. The objective of this training was to provide a working knowledge of Rojgar Mitra Software to the officers, who play an important role in the Employment and Self Employment offices. The course covered demonstration and practice on



the use of Rojgar Wahini, the Employment Exchange Website, various modules and a discussion on new requirements of Rojgar Mitra software.

Punam Gupta, Maharashtra Correspondent

● | **Nawarangpur benefits from Beneficiary Information System**

Nawarangpur in Orissa, a predominantly backward district, entered into SMART e-Governance era by implementing the computerized Beneficiary Information System (BIS) developed by NIC Nawarangpur District Unit. The BIS was inaugurated by Dr. Subash Pani, Chief Secretary, Orissa and other



dignitaries present on the occasion were Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, Sh. B J Sharma, Collector, Nawarangpur etc. The software is used to develop village wise, scheme wise as well as individual beneficiary



details of all the villages of the district. It will help the government machinery in decision-making, attending promptly to the public grievances related to different schemes, bringing transparency in BPL as well as beneficiary list etc.

Prasanta Kumar Mohanty, NIC Orissa

● | **NIC participation at International Conference of Medical Librarians**

Smt. Naina Pandita, Scientist 'F', NIC HQ was a part of the panel for Open Access for Developing Countries in the International Conference of Medical Librarians (IMCL9) held in September 2005 at Salvador, Brazil. She made a presentation on "Open Access Journals in India". The group formulated the "Salvador Declaration on Open Access: The Developing World Perspective".

Sonal Kalra, NIC HQ

● | **Training sessions conducted at NIC Training & Internet Unit (NTIU), Kochi**

A training session was conducted by NTIU Kochi for the officials of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), FEW, CAPROLACTAM and FEDO recently. The session covered the following topics: -

- Virtual Private Network - Introduction to VPN, the process of enrollment, procurement and the use of VPN
- Tenders - Publishing of Tenders on the Web
- Other Web related activities - Web related

activities like Creating, Updating, Publishing of Website, etc.

Earlier, NTIU Kochi also conducted Computer and Internet/Web Design training for the staff of Fishery Survey of India. Dr. K S Raman, Senior Technical Director and Officer In-charge, NTIU Kochi and Sh. M Rajendran conducted the training sessions.

Julie Rachel Zachariah, Kerala Correspondent

● | **Online publication of Jharkhand Academic Council Results**

The Jharkhand Academic Council declared the examination results for the year 2005 on the website <http://jharresults.nic.in>. The matric result was launched by Sh. Arjun Munda, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jharkhand. The results for Intermediate Science and Arts were launched by the State HRD Minister. After the



declaration of the results, students who had already registered themselves on the website, received their results automatically through email. The results website has been designed and developed by NIC Jharkhand State Centre and handled more than three lakh hits within 24 hours of its release.

Amar Kumar Sinha, Jharkhand Correspondent

● | **Computerization of Minor Irrigation census data**

Water Resources Informatics Division of NIC has introduced Business Intelligence Tools (provided by Analytical Modelling Division of NIC) to strengthen its informatics services to the Ministry of Water Resources. These tools will help in building Data Warehouse on Minor Irrigation Census Data, which would provide high value information on new patterns and knowledge to decision-makers for water resources planning and development. Proper water management is important to meet the

increasing demands. The Data Warehouse was demonstrated recently at the National Seminar on Rationalization of Minor Irrigation held at New Delhi.

Kishore Kumar, NIC HQ

● | **Website for EPFO Chennai Region and Pondicherry launched**

The G2C website of the Employee's Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Chennai Region and Pondicherry <http://epfochennai.tn.nic.in>, was launched recently by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner. The website has been developed by NIC Tamil Nadu State Centre and has dynamic content providing information relating to the status of claims of the EPFO members. Various forms pertaining to the department are also available on the website.

R Gayatri, Tamil Nadu Correspondent

● | **GIS Module conducted at LBSNAA, Mussoorie**

A three day GIS training module was successfully conducted at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie recently for IAS Professional Course. The module covered various topics that included Geo Informatics, GIS, IPSNIC, GISNIC, etc. Members of the faculty who conducted the training were Dr. Vandana Sharma, STD, NIC HQ, Sh. Ajay Kumar and Sh. S P Karthikeyan, NIC HQ, Sh. M Chakraborty, Sh. Azad Singh and



Sh. Amarjeet Singh Dutt. The training programme was coordinated by NICTU, LBSNAA Mussoorie.

M Chakraborty, NICTU Mussoorie

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