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Quarterly Newsletter from National Informatics Centre

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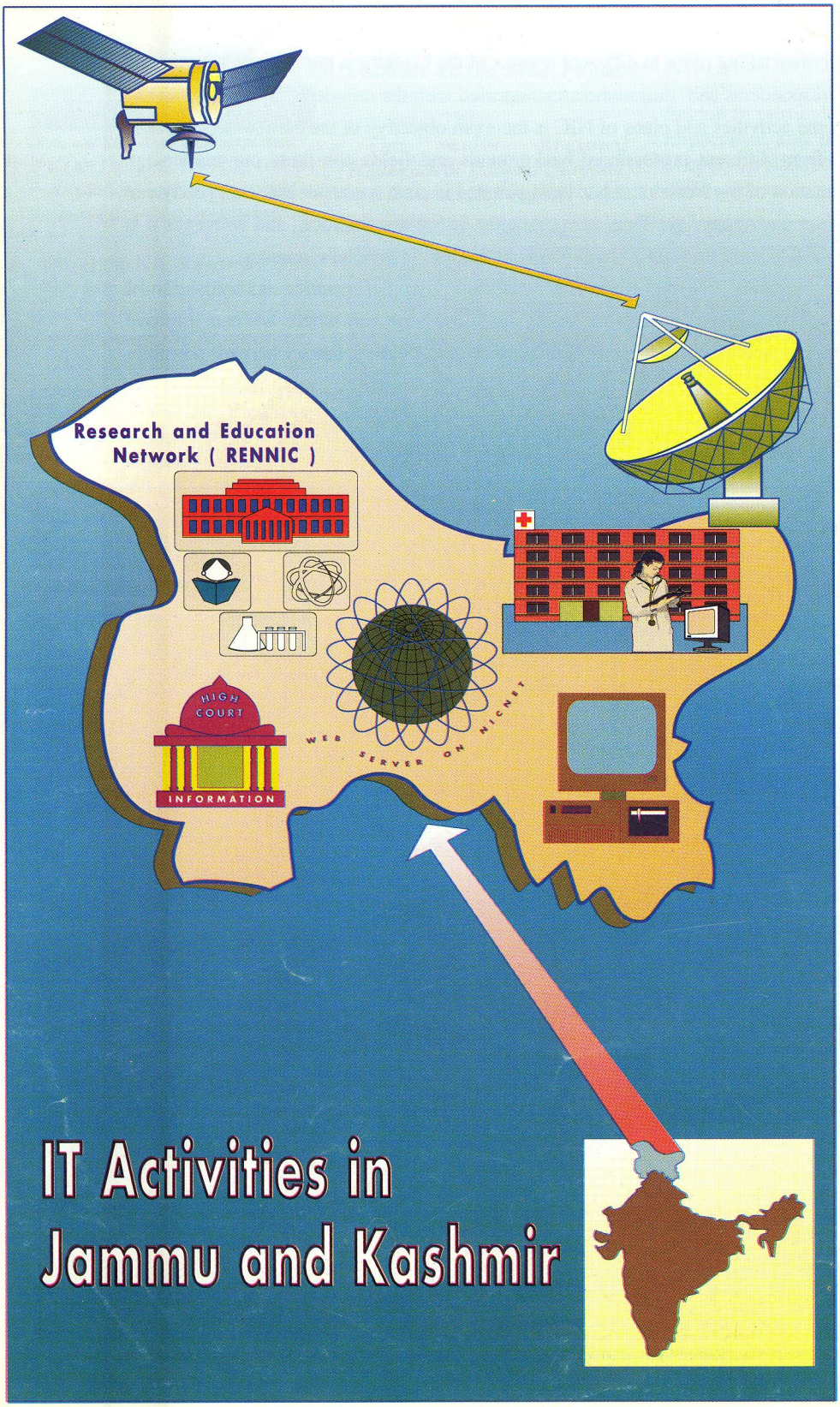
# Informatics

NICNET




## IT Activities in Jammu and Kashmir

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• • • *and all our regular columns.*

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

NIC's quarterly newsletter ***Informatics*** completes 16 quarters with this issue. All through the years, ***Informatics*** has rightly met with the objective of providing "information on information" to its Readers.

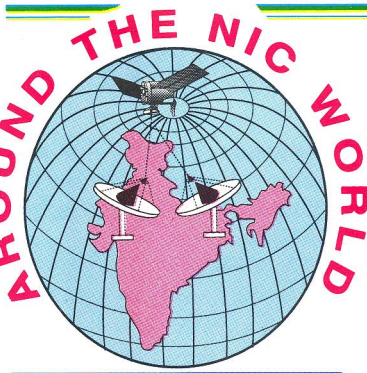
NIC is an organization spanning the country from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari with its centres in all State Capitals and over 500 Districts throughout the Country. The organization provides a wide range of IT services to its Users. Keeping track of all NIC activities taking place in different corners of the Country is not an easy assignment, and I will be depending on our correspondents and those who are connected with the newsletter in one way or the other. Letting our Readers know of the activities and plans of NIC is the main objective of the Newsletter. We also have to keep in mind that people from different professional backgrounds and fields constitute our readership. Under the circumstances, the presentation of the Newsletter has been planned in such a manner that everybody can easily understand what we want to say and appreciate. Thus our newsletter is not too technical, and wherever it is imperative that a technical term be introduced, care is taken to explain or define it in layman's language.

Our Readers are our best judge. Feedback from the Readers is what will keep ***Informatics*** on course, and I expect that they will be kind enough to take the trouble of letting us know how and where we can improve ourselves. All suggestions will be highly welcomed, and effort will be made to implement them wherever possible.

*Nidhi Verma*

# PHOTOTALK

**Conference on Information Systems for Economies in Transition (ISET-IC), organized jointly by the Paris based Data for Development (DFD) an International Association and NIC, from March 4 to 7, 1996.**




## LECTURE ON NIC ACTIVITIES

From our Rajasthan Correspondent

**Rajasthan:** The National Informatics Centre, organized a lecture-cum-demonstration on NIC activities on January, 29, 1996, at the NIC Rajasthan State Unit, Jaipur. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan presided over the programme.

The programme was attended by the Secretaries from Finance Department, Planning, Rural Development and Directorate, Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration.

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

From our LocalCorrespondent

**New Delhi:** The Department of Personnel & Training has sponsored a series of Five Training Programmes on " Application of NICNET based Information System for Decentralized Planning", for the year 1996-97.

The main aim of the programme is to narrow down gap between planners, various subject matter specialists, District Level officers and computer professionals, by familiarizing them with the usage of information technology in decentralized planning.

## NICNET CONNECTIVITY

From our Mizoram Correspondent

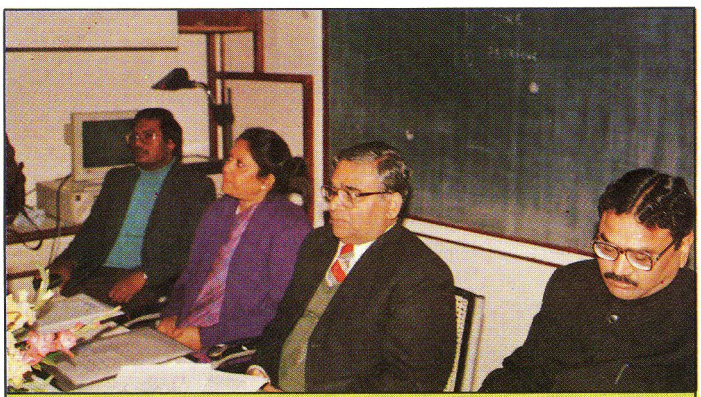
**Mizoram:** The NIC Mizoram State Unit has provided NICNET connectivity to the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Directorate of the Government of Mizoram, enabling them to have a national hook-up. The department is now able to make use of the electronic system to submit progress reports to the Central Government directly.

## NIC TRAINS FCI OFFICIALS

From our Punjab Correspondent

**Chandigarh:** A training programme was formally launched by the Managing Director of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Mr MD Asthana, IAS, for FCI officials from Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh at the NIC Punjab State Unit, Chandigarh on January 8, 1996.

The senior Regional Managers of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh were also present in the inaugural function. Welcoming the Managing Director, Senior Regional Managers and other participants, the State Informatics officer, NIC, Punjab gave a briefing on the role of NIC in Informatics in the Country in general and in the Region in particular. Later, the importance and priority areas of computerization in FCI were discussed.



FCI officials attending training programme

## PULSE POLIO MONITORED

From our Haryana Correspondent

**Haryana:** The NIC Haryana, State Unit took up the responsibility of developing a monitoring software to closely monitor the first round of Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) programme launched by the Health Department of Haryana Government. Necessary software was developed and transmitted to all States and Union Territories for implementation.

In Haryana, NICNET was extensively used on December 12, 1995 and January 1, 1996 for monitoring the progress of the PPI programme implementation, and instructions were issued to ensure maintenance of adequate stock level at all the sites. The system helped to keep a close check on the tendencies to inflate figures. Apart from the achievement of keeping track of the Oral Polio Vaccine programme for children in the age group of 0-3 years, the stock position of vaccine was also monitored.

## LAUNCHIING OF JUDIS AND COURTNIC SERVICES

From our Goa Correspondent

**Goa:** The Chief Justice, Bombay High Court, Mr MB Shah recently inaugurated JUDIS and COURTNIC services, of the National Informatics Centre in Goa.

The function was attended by the Minister for Law and Judiciary Mr Domnick Fernandes, Judges of Panaji Bench of Bombay High Court, Secretaries to Government of Goa, senior officials and advocates.

Both JUDIS and COURTNIC services have been very useful and have attracted great User response. Total computerization of the Panaji Bench of Bombay High Court and the District Courts in Goa is also on the card.

## CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

From our Local Correspondent

**New Delhi:** An international conference on Information Systems for Economies in Transition (ISET-IC), was jointly organized by the Paris-based Data for Development (DFD) an International Association and NIC at Ghaziabad near Delhi, from March 4 to 7, 1996. The conference was attended by delegates from nearly 30 countries.

Inaugurating the conference Mr N Vittal, Chairman, PSEB and former Telecom Chairman, advocated that in the wake of liberalization, enterprises should not only look for national markets, but also orient themselves towards the global market for which accurate, adequate and timely information is one of the most important pre-requisites.

The topics discussed in the conference dealt with issues like "'tracing the non-traceable economy", "the importance of Safety Nets in the wake of liberalization", the changing role of statistical system in the countries undergoing transition and changes being introduced in the funding policy of United Nations and other multilateral agencies.

NIC took the initiative of creating the ' *cyberspace forum* through NICNET and World Wide Web.

# IT Activities in Jammu and Kashmir

MES Antenna at NIC District Centre, Srinagar

" *Gar Firdaus Barroy, Zameensat, hameeato, hameeato, hameeato*". If heaven exists anywhere on the earth, it is here.

This stands true for the snow-capped mountains, the lushgreen forests and the tranquil blue lakes spread over the length and breadth of the great panorama of natural treasure, Jammu and Kashmir. And this is not all, one also comes across a rich and unique culture, embedded in the lives of the people living in the fourteen districts of the State.

The demographic diversity of the State is also linked to its geography. Out of the fourteen districts in the State, six each are in the Jammu and Kashmir regions respectively and two are situated in the Laddakh region. The National Informatics Centre has become a part and parcel of this heavenly abode by establishing NIC centres in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NIC and the State Government way back in the year 1987, was a green signal for NIC to begin its activities in Jammu and Kashmir. In the years that followed, the pace of growth of NIC activities in the state had no back tracking, despite the fact that the situation in the State has not been very favourable .

No sooner was the MOU signed that NIC established its state and district computer centres throughout the State and Satellite Earth Stations were installed in all these centres to link them with NICNET (Satellite based Computer Communication Network). This network is playing a vital role in the development of the state by providing the most advanced management techniques and Decision-Support System, with the help of various tools like E-mail, RDBMS, GIS etc. In addition to the establishment of NICNET, NIC has also successfully accomplished many computerization projects for the State Government, which acted as catalysts in benefiting the government in various ways.

### *PROVIDING CONNECTIVITY*

NICNET terminals are installed in most of the departments of the State Government situated in the Secretariat . The E-mail system has today become the primary communication channel for the State Government in Jammu and Kashmir. Many offices of the Jammu and Kashmir State Government , situated outside the Secretariat, are in the process of getting dialup connections for accessing NICNET, in order to establish effective communication between the three tiers of the State Government Administration viz Secretariat, Directorates and Directorate's subordinates offices. This will be carried out by installing a dedicated, UUCP Mail Server in NIC State Unit at Jammu. The system will not only enable speedy communication, but also bring in the culture of paperless communication. NIC has also extended its network support to Border Roads Organization in their major projects :

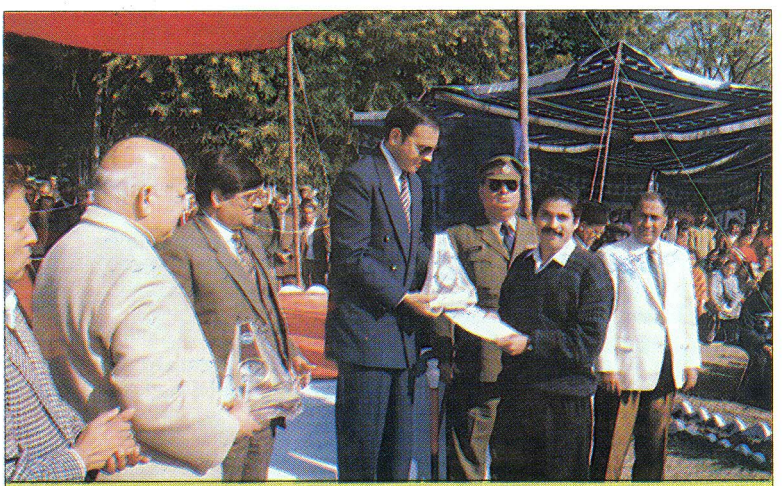
- Project HIMANK (Leh. Laddakh)
- Project BEACON (Srinagar)
- Project SAMPARK (Jammu)

The INTERNET connectivity provided by NIC opened the whole world of communication for research organizations such as the Regional Research Laboratory; Sher-e- Kashmir Agricultural University, Jammu; University of Jammu; etc.

### *THE COMPUTERIZATION DRIVE*

The need and importance of computers has been effectively inculcated in the work set-up of the State. A fully-equipped computer centre has been established at Rajbhavan, Srinagar with Satellite Earth Station and Computer Systems. The software developed includes Grievance Monitoring System, Reference Monitoring System, Office Automation and MIS. Rajbhavan is also fully utilizing the E-mail facility for speedy communication with various Central Ministries and State Government offices.

NIC was entrusted with the responsibility of computerizing the Jammu High Court in the year 1993. Since then NIC has established a fully-equipped computer centre and has undertaken a number of projects successfully. The projects include complete automation of Daily Cause List for fresh as well as pending cases, Implementation of the Judgement Information System (JUDIS) and Courts Information System (COURTNIC) at the Jammu High Court. Besides this, satellite link-up is also planned so as to enable the



NIC officials at Kathua District Centre being honoured by the District Collector

litigant community in Jammu and Kashmir state to get on-line information related to the Supreme Court cases.

### *TURN-KEY PROJECTS*

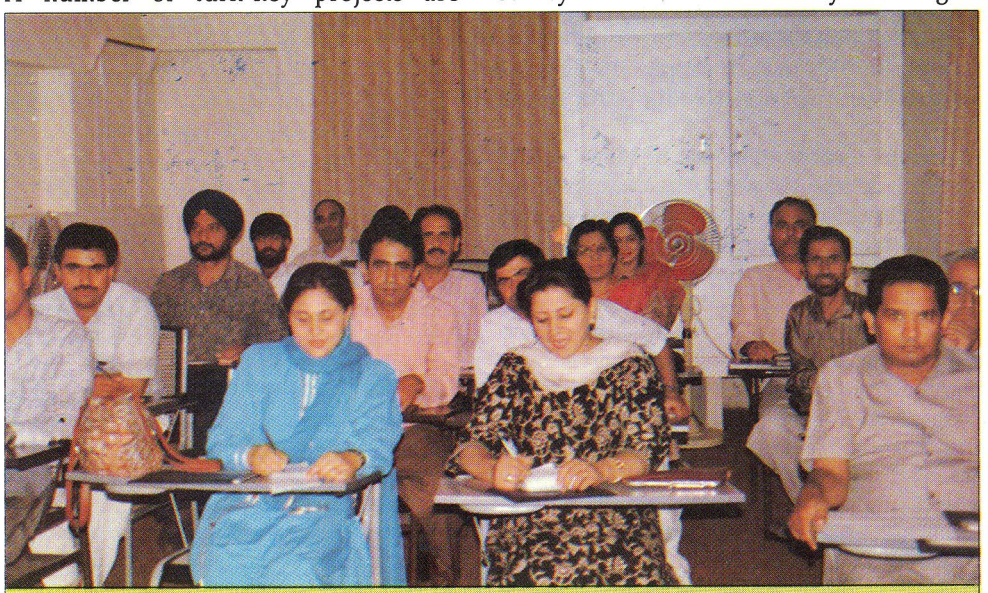
A number of turn-key projects are undertaken by the National Informatics Centre for the State of Jammu and Kashmir. NIC has been entrusted by many government and semi-government organizations in Jammu and Kashmir with the responsibility of handling turn-key projects for computerization for their wide range of needs.

These turn-key projects include computerization in Jammu Development Authority; computerization of Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board and computerization of Power Consumers Billing and Ledger making.

The Jammu Development Authority project involves , implementation of a general MIS, Financial Accounting and Land and Property Disposal system. A well-equipped computer centre has been established, with multiuser UNIX-based computer system. The software is developed under Oracle RDBMS. In the Housing Board project, computerization work has been taken up for MIS, Property Disposal, Schemes Monitoring etc. The Power Consumer's Billing and Ledgering project, involves computerization of bills and maintenance of ledger. The project is in its developmental stage.

### *WORKING TOWARDS BETTERMENT*

NIC has extended a helping hand to the State government in working towards the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir , by implementing the DISNIC plan effectively and in a unique way in the State. On the basis of an approach paper submitted by NIC to the State Government, a state-wide survey has been conducted by Planning Department. Computerization of this survey data, to create village wise database comprising more than 70 socio-economic sectors, has already been completed. Database is being thoroughly verified at the field level by Statistical Wing of the Planning Department, before the same is formally commissioned.



Training activities for spreading Informatics culture in Jammu and Kashmir State

NIC helped the State Government in saving crores of rupees by implementing the Migrant Relief Information System. The software developed has in-built feature for fraudulence detection against duplicate registration, fake withdrawal of cash relief, excess disbursement of cash relief etc. In addition to this, the system is also being effectively used to monitor various relief activities for migrant families. Database available on computers serve as a ready reference of information for the State government, while deriving various relief measures for migrants.

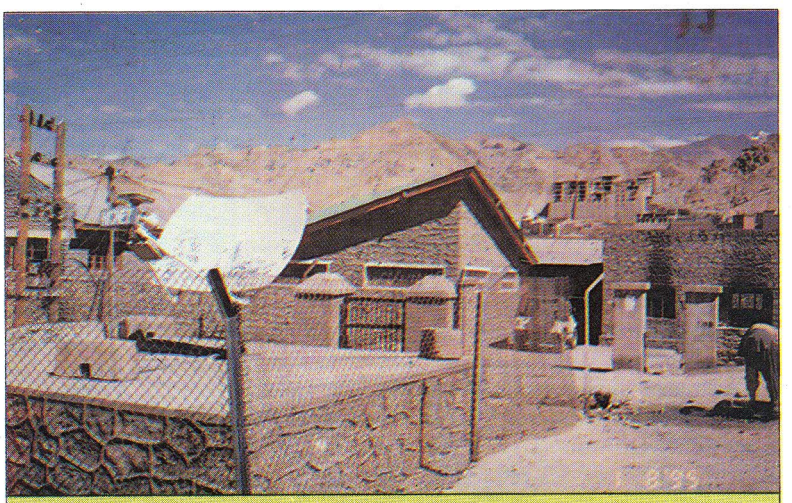
MEDLARS services are also being made available to the State by providing direct access to Bio-medical Information System Database, to the medical professionals and research scholars in Jammu and Kashmir. It comprises of 28 databases and is the most extensively used biomedical information system in the world. The areas include AIDS, Cancer, Toxicology, Population and Health Planning and Administration.

### *SPREADING THE INFORMATICS CULTURE*

NIC has not only introduced and spread the Informatics culture in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, it has also uplifted and imparted training needed to maintain the momentum.

A separate wing has been established under the State Unit of NIC, at Jammu, which is entirely dedicated for spreading the computer awareness and Informatics culture, among the government employees in State and Central Government. Training programmes are organized round the year. More than 40 training-cum-awareness programmes have been conducted so far. The State Government has recognized that a break through has been registered through these computer awareness programmes and its popularity among State Government can be gauged from the level of participation.

Today, in the field of both adapting and adopting the modern tecnologies, Jammu & Kashmir stands out as an example in itself. NIC's activity profile in Jammu & Kashmir has proved that nothing is impossible; all that is needed is determination and hard work.



NIC at Leh-Laddakh

# Computerization of Budget

**From our Mizoram Correspondent**

The NIC Mizoram State Unit has successfully computerized the Annual Budget for 1996-1997 for the Government of Mizoram. This is to be placed in the Budget Session of the Mizoram assembly this year. It helped the Finance Department in preparing the documents of the budget within a stipulated period of time.

The Budget System was demonstrated to the Commissioner, Finance, at the Mizoram State Unit of NIC. On this occasion, the Commissioner said that the computerized reports and documents were excellent and the services that NIC is providing are of great use to all. The Secretary, the Joint Secretary, Finance and the Controller of Presses were also present on the occasion.

All through these years the Finance Department has been allocating huge funds to different departments under different heads in order to develop the budget related documents. Amongst these, the most voluminous document is the Demands of Grants which consists of at least 55 demands and also contains estimated figures of the current year's budget. The document runs into 550 pages and the compilation of this manually requires a lot of manpower and resources. This was also a time consuming and inconvenient process and, modifications if any, were difficult to perform.

But this year the Finance Department has heaved a sigh of relief with the computerization of the budget system which has helped in minimising work load, and has saved the department from undertaking the hectic job of collection and compilation of data.

The system has helped in saving a lot of resources, money as well as manpower. The Finance Department has been so impressed by computerization of the budget that they have expressed interest in complete computerization of the Finance Department.

# Development of Information System

**From our Nagaland Correspondent**

The Employee Details Information system for the Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) has been developed by the NIC, Nagaland State Unit. This software has been developed for the purpose of maintaining information on each employee of the User department. Along with the bio-data of each employee, the software also gives the monthly and yearly expenditure statement of the employees for each village in a particular division. The software also maintains division-wise particulars of each employee , monthly pay, seniority list of employees who are going to retire in a particular year , etc.

The Employee Details Information system for PHE has been developed under the Unix environment .

# Computerization of Legislative Assembly

**From our Rajasthan Correspondent**

The NIC, Rajasthan State Unit, has undertaken the computerization of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and has successfully completed the first phase. The project took-off with the implementation of 'PAYROLL' and 'MLA's biodata software at the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. The computerization drive soon gained momentum and software was developed for the Accounts Section, Question Branch and some of the activities related to the library, such as the profile of members.

A framework was developed in order to enable smooth operation. The system installed in the main computer centre acted as the backbone to the systems installed at the user sections.

The Question Branch software facilitates the details of questions including the subject, keywords, etc. It enables allocation of a session-wise unique question number which is used for all references. During the process it builds up database on questions and keywords. The system also allows on-line monitoring.

Besides, monitoring the question limit of the members, the system also generates list of rejected questions. The system caters to the queries related to :

- department
- member
- specific keyword
- category of questions

Software developed:

- QUESTION BRANCH
- MLA's BIODATA
- PRESS CLIPPINGS
- PAYROLL

The MLA's Biodata software helps in compiling the details of the Members of the Assembly. This software is a modified version of the software developed by NIC for the Parliament. Changes have been made in the software to suit the requirements of the Assembly. The software includes general information, educational, professional, socio-economic as well as family details. The system offers excellent query facilities on a number of parameters.

The Press Clipping software retrieves press clippings based on the keywords, references date, folder name, source etc. The software is very widely used by the press clipping section of the library.

The PAYROLL software enables generation of pay bills by the concerned section independently by using computers. The software also facilitates generation of annual salary statement, income tax calculation sheet and form no 16 for income tax returns.

NICNET connectivity has also been provided to the Assembly, for accessing other Assemblies and the Parliament. It also connects the Assembly to all High Courts, Ministries and other institutions.

After the successful implementation of the first phase of activities, the second phase is about to be put in action. The second phase envisages development of software for MLA's pension, Reporters Branch, Table Branch, Legislative Branch and total computerization of library.

# Computerization of MP State Warehousing Corporation

**From our Madhya Pradesh Correspondent**

The Madhya Pradesh, State Unit of the National Informatics Centre has been entrusted with the responsibility of designing and developing an integrated computer-based MIS for the Madhya Pradesh State War ..ousing Corporation (MPSWC), a Madhya Pradesh government undertaking. A computer based software system has been developed and is in active use by the Accounts and Business sections while the implementation work is in progress for the Construction and Administration Sections of the corporation. The details of the system are as given below:

- **Business management Information**

Basic inputs required to be entered for every warehouse are capacity of godowns, reservation, vacancy, commodity deposited, types of depositors, income and expenditure figurew of various accounts heads. Based on these parameters various monthly reports can be generated. Queries on any or all parameters can be made using built-in multi-user query system.

- **Technical Management Information**

Based on inputs such as quality of pesticides, fumigants and number of bags treated for the prevention of any damage from insects, various output reports can be generated. Multi-user Query System helps for on-line query on any parameter.

- **Financial Accounting Information**

This system has been designed in modular form. The basic inputs for this system are daily receipt and payment transactions, built-in query system helps the account manager to check the account of various ledgers at the press of a key.

- **Construction Monitoring Information**

This system is used to monitor the construction activities, mainly for godown construction for which formats have been designed and an appropriate S/W for data entry has been developed.

- **Personnel Information System**

Formats have been designed so as to cover all necessary personnel information of employees. Software for data entry using state-of-the-art GIST technology has been developed in Hindi.

Necessary Training has been imparted to MPSWC employees in order to enable them to work independently. Presently the S/W is operational at the Head Office and the MPSWC management is planning to implement it at the regional level also. NICNET connectivity of Head office with Regional offices for fast and timely transmission of data as well as use of E-mail, is also planned.

# On-Line Flood Information System

**From our Local Correspondent**

The National Informatics Centre has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing technical and infrastustural support to the Special Relief Organization, Government of Orissa, for the project "On-line Flood Information Service " (OFIS). The objectives of OFIS is not only to meet requirements concerning correct and timely information flow, but also help promote higher objectives such as resource sharing, association, standardization, automation and ultimate integration , of information for the concerned organizations.

Currently OFIS is taking care of the management of flood hazards related with the Mahanadi basin which happens to be the biggest and the highest damage causing river basin in the whole state.

### *OFIS NETWORK*

The OFIS network connects all the organizational entities such as Special Relief Organization; Flood Control Room; Indian Meteorological Department, through NICNET, to NIC's computer centre located at Bhubaneshwar.

### *OFIS DATABASE*

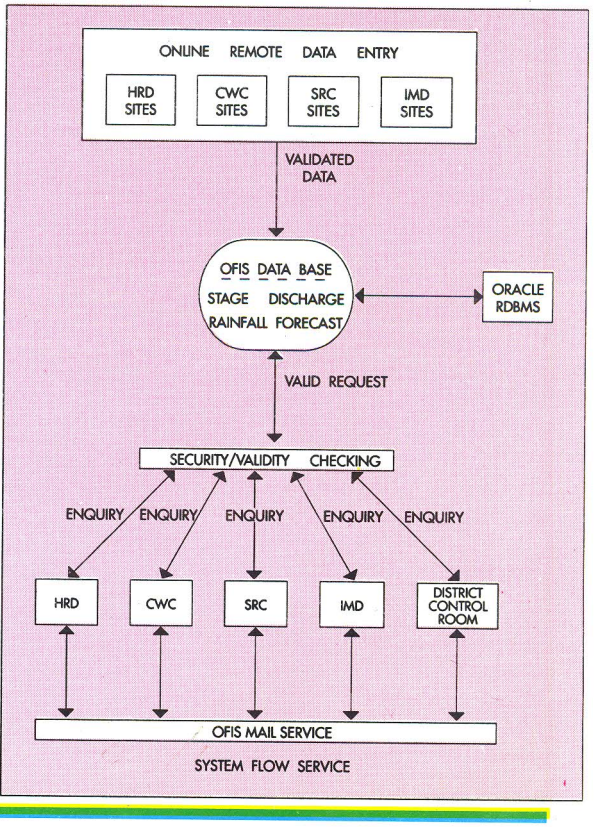
OFIS provides a platform for storing data of common interest to the associated organizations. The categories under which the data is made available are; stage and discharge at various sites of Mahanadi; rainfall in Mahanadi catchment; Hirakund reservoir data; daily flood situation covering damage, rescue and relief measures and forecasts/warning issued by IMD, CWC and the Water Resources Department.

### *OFIS FEATURES*

Presently OFIS provides the following features:

- Remote Data Entry andUpdation
- Integrated Database
- Instantaneous, Error free Data Availability
- Data Down-loading at Local Sites
- Electronic Mail Facilities.

OFIS provides an effective and error- free control mechanism.



# Raigarh: March of NIC into theTribal-belt

Situated in the centre of India the land-locked state of Madhya Pradesh is the biggest state in the Country. It has the largest tribal population which constitutes nearly one third of the total population of Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh there are 23 predominantly tribal districts.

One such tribal district of Madhya Pradesh is " **Raigarh**". Raigarh is situated at the border with Bihar and Orissa. It is famous for it's '*Kosa silk*' and a distinct form of classical music '*Raigarh Gharana*.'.

## The Initial Task

The National Informatics Centre made its presence in this remote area in the year 1988. The foremost task was to generate computer awareness among various government departments. For this purpose the District Informatics Officer backed by the whole-hearted cooperation from the District Collector arranged extensive training programmes for the staff and officers of various departments. These programmes were carried out for three months and training was imparted in batches. This helped in the generation of familiarization with the versatility and potential of computer and communication networks applications. The effort bore fruits and today more than 30 User departments are regularly utilizing NIC facilities.

## Projects Profile

No sooner was computer awareness generated and the needed culture developed, NIC found itself in the midst of a number of projects. NIC successfully implemented a number of National and State level projects. As a gift for the hardwork, Raigarh has been selected as a model district to implement developmental Projects of the Government for Madhya Pradesh along with two other districts. NIC, Raigarh also undertook data collection, compilation and report generation of DISNIC-PLAN. Computerization of work under Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission, and monitoring of several national-level projects viz NWDPRA, PACS, PMRY, SIRIS, etc has been successfully completed by the NIC District unit of Raigarh. Raigarh has also successfully implemented various state-level packages developed by NIC, Madhya Pradesh.

## Extending Help

Madhya Pradesh was the first to implement the Panchayati Raj System in India and NIC District Centre has extended a helping hand for this purpose.

NIC, Raigarh has designed and developed many computer-based information and monitoring systems for application at the local level. Besides this, computers are being used for monitoring the proper utilization of the funds allocated to the 1,083 panchayats in the district under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. This is not all, the job of disseminating varied information on over 990 project profiles, which have been identified for consideration for the purpose of financial assistance by the Government, for the unemployed under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna Programme is also done with the help of computers.

## Fulfilling the Purpose

It would be right to say that the computer and communication facility established at NIC District Centre Raigarh is fulfilling its purpose by aiding the district administration to function with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

## Overcoming Hurdles

Madhya Pradesh being a tribal district, NIC had to overcome a lot of hurdles, in the initial stages. But the ever increasing enthusiasm and awareness shown by the various organs of the District administration and the sincere and dedicated approach of the NIC staff at Raigarh, has made NIC, Raigarh an indispensable part of local administration, in a short span of time.

***NIC district centre, Raigarh today stands out of the crowd, and has proved that where there is a will there is a way. All that is required in order to attain success is a zealous outlook, dedication and a conceited effort. All these factors are very prominently embedded in the success story of Raigarh , which despite being a tribal and remote district has not only successfully implemented a number of projects, but also established itself as a model district for technological development.***

Computer awareness programme (CAP) at NIC, Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh