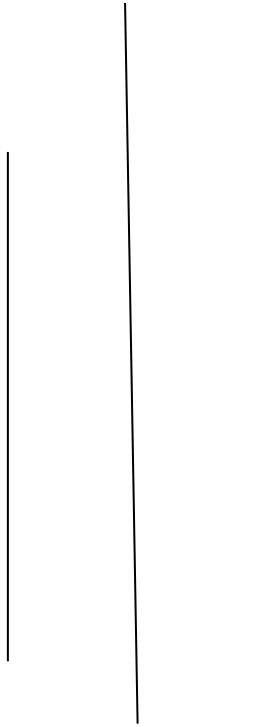


Report on NICNET



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Content

- Introduction
- History
- Special Features
- Closed user groups over NICNET
- Applications of NICNET
- Conclusion
- References

Introduction

NIC

NIC(National Informatics Centre) provides infrastructure to help support delivery of Government IT services and delivery of some of the initiatives of Digital India.NIC has set up the world's largest Satellite based Computer communication network providing information exchange services between Government and Corporate sector organizations, named NICNET(National Informatics Centre Network).India built a visionary nationwide computer network, NICNET. . It provides solutions in the area of e-governance particularly for the sectors that fall under Government of India. It supports NICNET. It can be made available to all organizations (both public and private) organizations engaged in specific projects and programmes. NICNET produced the enabling facilities for supporting added activities, projects and programmes in the special work areas.NIC is noted for being the primary constructor of e-Government applications.The project was nevertheless green-lighted by the Prime Minister's Office. When Seshagiri and his colleagues launched NICNET in 1987, they called it a "hierarchic, distributed computer communication network to support decision-making by the Indian government". The nucleus of NICNET would be a "Master Earth Station" in the country's capital, supported by regional hubs in Pune, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and another, smaller sub-station in Delhi. These hubs were equipped with the S-1000, a Japanese computer ranked among the "fastest machines in the world" during the eighties.

History

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976 under the Planning Commission by the India Government. Then Additional Secretary late Dr. N Shesagiri was the first to introduce a network system in India called NICNET. In 1990, the takeoff by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology NIC's ICT Network, "NICNET", facilitates the institutional linkages with the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, state Governments and District administrations of India. NICNET was conceived just as elite criticism and political opposition to Rajiv's policies were growing and its birth, therefore, had to be cloaked in secrecy. When Seshagiri approached the Finance Minister VP Singh for his approval for NICNET – estimated to cost Rs 240 crore in three years the latter advised him to set up the network first, and then submit the proposal to the Union Cabinet.

Special Features

NIC has emerged as a “prime builder” of e-government / e-Governance applications in government sector (national, state and local districts) as well as promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development, during more than a quarter century period. NIC has institutional linkages through its ICT Network “NICNET”, with all the Departments/Ministries of the Central Government, 28 State Governments, 1 National Capital Territory of Delhi, 6 Union Territories, and about 600 District administrations of India. NIC has been instrumental in steering e-Government / e-Governance applications in Government Ministries/Departments at Centre, States, District and Blocks, facilitating improvement in government services, wider transparency, promoting decentralized planning and management, resulting in better efficiency and accountability to people.

Closed user groups over NICNET

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) are among the first user organizations to have their Closed User Groups (CUG) over NICNET. SAIL has installed 18 VSATs, to connect their plants to headquarters. NTPC has installed 6 VSATs to link all their stations while IFFCO has connected 3 stations in its CUG.

Applications of NICNET

It extends rapid awareness to computerization of different departments. It connects all the districts of the India virtually. It helps in consolidating information for socio economic developments of district. Each district is connected with state information center. It works as repository of all the information systems. It helps in research work. It develop relevant software and hardware tools. Internet classroom assistant (ICA) Anyone can setup class in minutes, Conferencing, Scheduling, Document sharing, Personal messaging, Link sharing are some of the applications of NICNET.

Conclusion

National Informatics Centre (NIC) has since emerged as a "prime builder" of e-Government / e-Governance applications up to the grassroots level as well as a promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development. NIC has been instrumental in steering e-Government/e-Governance applications in government ministries/departments at the Centre, States, Districts and Blocks, facilitating improvement in government services, wider transparency, promoting decentralized planning and management, resulting in better efficiency and accountability to the people of India.