



NICF

NICF Newsletter



सत्यमेव जयते



July-December 2023

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION FINANCE, NEW DELHI

NICF CAMPUS..



DG'S MESSAGE

Every journey begins with a small step, and looking at the National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) now, we can only be thankful to the many, many people who have contributed to make this institute what it is today. Housed in 53 acres of sylvan lush green surroundings, it is easy to forget that one is in the middle of a constantly rushing, feverishly busy, concrete jungle. The calm and green environment at NICF is designed to promote learning and growth.

Today, NICF hosts a wide range of training and capacity building programs, including induction trainings for Group A, B & C cadres of IP&TAFS service, in-service refresher courses and workshops, Mid-Career Trainings as well as a whole host of thematic workshops and webinars, in collaboration with reputed names from industry, academia as well as other training institutions. To gauge the vigour of NICF, we have trained over 337 people on campus and 305 through online webinars just over the last three months, amounting to 6405 man-days in a quarter. The profile of the trainees is diverse, ranging from senior officers of the IP&TAFS cadre to newly inducted officer trainees of the service, Officer trainees from Indian Civil accounts service (ICAS), Indian Postal Service (IPoS), Indian Telecom Service (ITS), officers of IRRS from the WPC wing of DoT, finance and accounts officials from the HQ and field offices of Department of Posts and Department of Telecom etc. NICF has hosted trainings in collaboration with eminent bodies and institutions, including the International Telecom Union (ITU), INGAF, IICA, IIM Bangalore, IIPA and ASCI. In our commitment to excellence, we continue to offer a wide spectrum of training programs tailored to diverse needs.

Just as the modes of communication are evolving, so are our training methods, with a rich resource pool of trainers comprising in-house faculty, senior officers with functional knowledge, academicians, industry practitioners and domain experts. Whether through traditional classroom settings, online platforms, or immersive workshops, our institute remains dedicated to providing high-quality education. The method of delivery includes group discussions, lectures, case studies and simulation exercises. Our institute serves as a catalyst for personal and professional growth. Our training and capacity building programs are thus built on three pillars: Domain competencies particular to entire gamut of telecom licensing and spectrum policy and regulation as well as postal finance; Functional Competencies including transferable skills with cross-departmental application; and Behavioural Competencies imparting transferable skills that have applicability across domains like leadership, communication, negotiation, conflict resolution, teamwork and change

management. In an encouraging development, NICF is not just the youngest, but also one of the few CTIs to have been ranked as “UTKRISHT” by the Capacity Building Commission, a body constituted by DOP&T to evolve a harmonious, standardised, autonomous and collaborative capacity building system for the civil services to produce the role oriented civil servants ready to facilitate and usher in the future of India.

Equipped with 220 + hostel rooms, multiple state of art computer labs, an impressive array of classrooms and conference halls, an upcoming library and an enviable sports complex, NICF is poised to make its distinctive mark on the training landscape in the days to come. The Community Centre, Officer Trainees Club, spacious lawns and open seating areas all make for a vibrant space to promote extracurricular activities, team building activities and esprit de corps.

Our institute, a hub of diverse learning experiences, is a testament to the power of education and training. As we envision the path ahead, I am thrilled to share that our journey of growth is poised to reach new heights, with multiple international trainings and broadened domestic collaborations with industry and academia on the horizon. The upcoming year holds the promise of exciting collaborations with esteemed international institutions. These partnerships will not only broaden our global perspective but also provide unique opportunities for cross-cultural learning. NICF is also endeavouring to cater to inter-departmental needs within India by developing standardised cutting-edge flagship programs which serve a whole host of functional training needs of various departments.

As we stand on the cusp of a new year, brimming with potential and possibilities, I extend my warmest wishes to each one of you. May the coming months be filled with joy, accomplishments, and continued growth.

Madhavi Das
Director General

FOREWORD

Dear Esteemed Readers,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter, capturing the vibrant tapestry of experiences and accomplishments within our esteemed academic institute. Over the past quarter, our institute has served as a crucible for the transformation and refinement of aspiring government servants, providing them with an unparalleled platform for holistic development.

At the heart of our mission lies the commitment to nurturing a cadre of public servants who not only possess the requisite academic acumen but are also imbued with a profound sense of cultural awareness, physical fitness, and a keen understanding of the diverse challenges that our society faces today. This edition of the newsletter serves as a testament to the multifaceted journey our students undertake during their tenure at the institute.

The cornerstone of our academic program is a rigorous curriculum designed to equip our trainees with the knowledge and skills essential for effective governance. As they delve into subjects ranging from public policy and administration to the nuances of contemporary socio-economic issues, our students engage in a dynamic exchange of ideas, fostering a culture of critical thinking and analytical prowess.

Beyond the lecture halls, our institute thrives on the vibrant tapestry of cultural activities that enrich the lives of our students. From traditional dance performances to literary festivals, our campus becomes a melting pot of diverse cultural expressions, promoting understanding and appreciation for the rich heritage that defines our nation. This synthesis of academic excellence and cultural vibrancy creates a unique learning environment, one that not only imparts knowledge but also shapes well-rounded individuals prepared to navigate the complexities of public service.

No less significant are the sports events that form an integral part of our curriculum. Recognizing the importance of physical fitness in maintaining a healthy work-life balance, our institute encourages participation in a wide array of sports activities. Through friendly competitions and collaborative endeavors, our students develop teamwork, discipline, and resilience – qualities that are indispensable in the demanding field of public service.

In addition to the structured academic and cultural pursuits, our students actively engage in a spectrum of miscellaneous events that broaden their horizons and instill a sense of social responsibility. From community outreach programs to seminars on emerging global challenges, our trainees emerge not only as competent administrators but also as conscientious citizens committed to contributing positively to society.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the faculty, staff, and students whose collective efforts have made this quarter an extraordinary chapter in our institute's history.

Here's to another quarter of excellence, growth, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge!

Thank You

Reet Sundaram

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ORIENTATION AND ADMIN MODULE OF IP&TAFS 2021-22

In the solemn corridors of bureaucratic excellence, the initiation of Officer Trainees (OTs) into the realms of a distinguished Central Government Service of IP&TAFS is marked by a ritualistic and enlightening orientation program. The ceremonial lighting of lamps, a symbol of knowledge and enlightenment, sets the stage for the auspicious commencement of their professional journey. This sacred act is accompanied by the dignified presence of seasoned senior officers DG, DDG, Course Director and Deputy Director creating an ambiance that transcends mere initiation into a service – it signifies the induction into a legacy of public service and commitment.

The orientation module serves as the foundational cornerstone for Officer Trainees, offering a comprehensive introduction to the intricate workings of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Department of Posts (DoP). The initial moments of the program are steeped in tradition, as the glow of the lamps reflects the collective wisdom that the OTs are about to inherit. The senior officers, with their wealth of experience, grace the occasion, instilling a sense of pride and responsibility among the new recruits.

As the lamps cast a warm glow, the orientation delves into the structural nuances of DoT and DoP, unraveling the layers of these critical governmental bodies. Officer Trainees are guided through the organizational hierarchy, understanding the functions, responsibilities, and interdependencies that characterize these departments. The intricate web of telecommunications and postal services is unraveled before their eyes, providing a bird's eye view of the vast expanse of their future endeavors.

Beyond the organizational intricacies, the orientation module extends its purview to encompass a holistic overview of the upcoming training regimen. Officer Trainees are apprised of the multifaceted challenges they are set to encounter and the skills they need to cultivate to navigate the complex landscape of public service. From interpersonal skills to decision-making acumen, the training blueprint is laid out with meticulous detail, ensuring that the OTs are equipped not just with theoretical knowledge but with practical insights that will shape their professional trajectory.

The orientation module transforms the orientation program into a rite of passage for Officer Trainees. Beyond the formalities, it serves as a poignant reminder of the sacred responsibility that comes with serving the nation through a Central Government Service. It is not merely an orientation; it is a fusion of tradition, knowledge, and legacy – a prelude to a journey where lamps of enlightenment illuminate the path of dedicated service, steering Officer Trainees toward the pinnacle of public administration.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON IBC

In a paradigm-shifting initiative, our institution recently hosted an insightful workshop tailored for senior officers of IP&TAFS. The focus of the workshop was the intricate web of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, unraveling its complexities with a specific emphasis on its intersections with the dynamic telecommunication sector. Led by industry experts and legal luminaries, the workshop delved deep into the nuances of insolvency proceedings, shedding light on its implications for the telecommunications industry.

Through engaging discussions and case studies, senior officers gained a profound understanding of the code's relevance, challenges, and potential opportunities.



OT'S FIELD VISIT AT VARANASI, ALLAHABAD AND LUCKNOW



OTs of IPTAFS 2021-22 participated in what was a very informative visit spanning Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow. We got to see the workings of suboffice and railtel at varanasi, DLC camp at Prayageraj and CCA as well as DAP office at Lucknow. The visit was very well coordinated by CCA office Lucknow. We also got to interact with Member (Finance) Sir at Lucknow CCA Office. Overall it was a very good field visit that gave us exposure to the works of our department at ground level. Thanks a lot NICF for arranging this visit for us.

DELHI DARSHAN OF OTS

On August 25th, 2023 (Friday), 4 OTs of IP&TAFs participated in one day Delhi Darshan that started at 8 am and went till 10.20 pm. We started from having the iconic breakfast of Delhi (Chole Bhature) at Sita Ram Diwan Chand, Paharganj. Thereafter we started the architectural rendezvous with Humayun's Tomb, before moving on to Red Fort. Both the monuments are iconic and no words are needed to appreciate their beauty. Short of time, we headed to PM Sangrahalay. The newly created museum is a technological wonder in itself. It was enlightening to read and visualise the times of all the honourable PMs of India. Sun was setting in and we rushed to Qutub Minar to catch it's light show in time. Qutub Minar at night was the most majestic view of the whole day.

Thank NICF for arranging this day long visit which was eventful in a lot of ways.



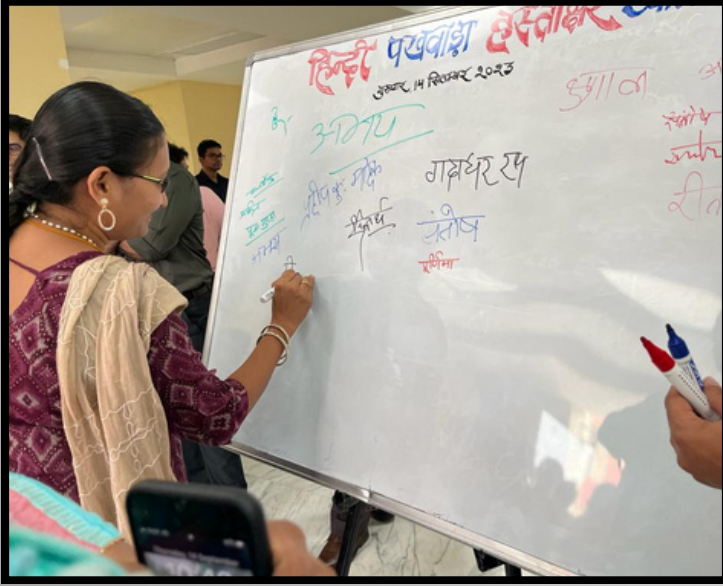
TREK TO ARAVALI

राष्ट्रीय संचार वित्त संस्थान, घिटोरनी, नई दिल्ली द्वारा अरावली वन एवं पहाड़ी क्षेत्र का ट्रेकिंग कार्यक्रम दिनांक: 20.08.2023 (रविवार) को संस्थान में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करने आने वाले परिवीक्षाधीन प्रशिक्षु अधिकारीगण, सहायक लेखाधिकारी, कनिष्ठ लिपिक, संस्थान के अधिकारी एवं कर्मचारीगणों हेतु इस संस्थान की समन्वय शाखा के श्रीमान् प्रवीण डागर, लेखाधिकारी एवं श्री महेश सोनी, सहायक लेखाधिकारी के सौजन्य में श्रीमती माधवी कतूरी, श्रीमती सीमा, श्री मनमोहन सिंह, श्री रामस्वरूप शरण एवं श्री हरीश शर्मा की देखरेख में करवाया गया।



इस कार्यक्रम में सभी भागीदारों ने अरावली वन एवं पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के मनोरम दृश्यों का आनन्द लेकर बड़े उत्साह एवं मनोबल का परिचय दिया तथा इस भाग-दौड़ एवं व्यस्त जीवन शैली में प्रकृति के नजदीक जाने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त कर कृतार्थ हुए जिसके तहत बहुतायत भागीदारों द्वारा इस प्रकार की गतिविधियों को संस्थान द्वारा आगे भी सुचारू रखें जाने का प्रस्ताव देते हुए आनन्द एवं प्रकृति की अनुभूति हेतु संस्थान का आभार व्यक्त किया।

हिन्दी पखवाड़े का आयोजन



इस वर्ष माननीय गृह मंत्री जी द्वारा पुणे से हिन्दी पखवाड़े की शुरुआत की गई तथा कार्यालयों में हिन्दी पखवाड़े की रुपरेखा इस प्रकार बनाई जानी थी कि हिन्दी पखवाड़े की प्रतियोगिताएँ १६ सितंबर के बाद आयोजित करायी जाये तथा २९ सितंबर को पखवाड़े का समापन हो इसी क्रम में 14 सितंबर को हिन्दी दिवस के अवसर पर कार्यालय में हस्ताक्षर अभियान आयोजित किया गया ।

18 सितंबर को कार्यक्रम का औपचारिक उद्घाटन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया । 19 सितंबर को बाल काव्य प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें बच्चों ने ३ श्रेणियों कक्षा १ से ५ , ६ से ८ , तथा कक्षा ९ से १० में भाग लिया . इस कार्यक्रम में संस्थान के अधिकारियों व् कर्मचारियों के बच्चे , संस्थान प्रांगण में रह रहे निवासियों के बच्चे भी आमंत्रित थे इन के साथ समीप के दो विद्यालयों इस सर्वोदय कन्या विद्यालय घिटोरनी तथा राजकीय वरिष्ठ माध्यमिक बाल विद्यालय घिटोरनी के छात्रों तथा संस्थान में कार्यरत कर्मचारियों के बच्चों ने भाग लिया । पुरस्कार वितरण भी उसी दिन किया गया जिसमें सर्वोदय कन्या विद्यालय घिटोरनी की प्रधानाचार्या श्रीमती सरिता बत्रा ने भी भाग लिया २० सितंबर को हिन्दी प्रश्नोत्तरी का आयोजन किया गया। २१ सितंबर को चित्रकला का आयोजन किया गया जिसका विषय महिला सशक्तिकरण था इस प्रतियोगिता के निर्णायक श्री अंकित आनंद निदेशक महोदय तथा श्री कुणाल श्रीवास्तव उपनिदेशक महोदय रहे ।

25 सितम्बर को हिंदी लेखन प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें एक निबंध तथा एक कार्यालय टिपण्णी लिखे जाने थे ।

26 सितंबर को भाषण प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की गयी जिसका विषय था आत्मनिर्भरता की और बढ़ता भारत ।

27 सितम्बर को पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह आयोजित किया गया । डिजिटल इंडिया के युग में सभी विजेताओं के पुरस्कार की राशि उनके बैंक खाते में ट्रांसफ़र की गयी तथा महानिदेशक महोदय द्वारा सभी विजेताओं को सर्टिफिकेट प्रदान किए गए ।



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY



Indian Independence Day reverberated with patriotic fervor at our esteemed institution, as the tricolor soared high during a solemn flag hoisting ceremony. The Director-General of the institution, accompanied by the Deputy Director-General, Director, and other dignitaries, graced the occasion. As the national anthem echoed, a collective spirit of unity and pride swept through the gathering.

The cultural extravaganza that ensued was a vibrant tapestry of performances, skillfully managed by the charismatic Emcee Reet Sundaram. Staff members and trainees showcased their talents through dance, music, and theatrical expressions, portraying the rich cultural diversity of our nation.

The honor of hoisting the flag was bestowed upon the Director-General, symbolizing the institution's commitment to the ideals of freedom and progress. The event seamlessly transitioned into a thoughtful plantation ceremony, reinforcing our dedication to environmental sustainability.



The day concluded on a convivial note with a high tea, providing a platform for informal interactions and camaraderie. The celebrations served not only as a commemoration of our nation's independence but also as a testament to the collective enthusiasm and unity that defines our institutional ethos.

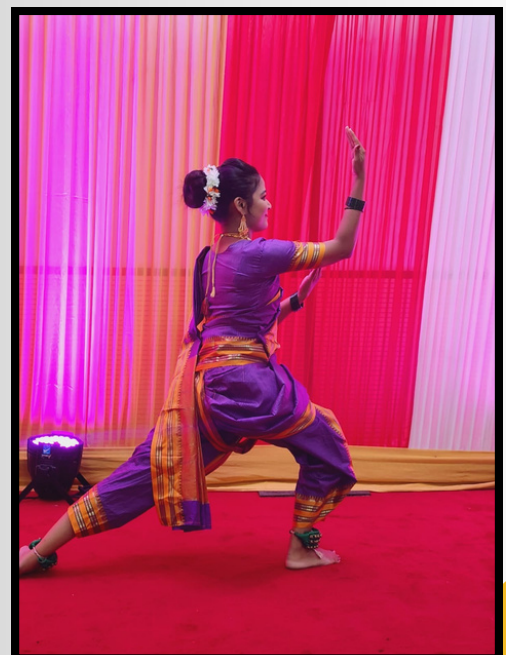
IPOS AND IP&TAFS CROSSOVER



One week training of IPoS OTs of 2022 Batch took place at NICF from 28.08.2023 to 01.09.2023. No of IPOS OTs were 16. The training was inaugurated jointly by Director, RAKNPA, Ghaziabad and DG, NICF, Ghitorni on 28th August 2023 in presence of DDG(TER), DDG(TAR), Course Director and Course Coordinator. Cultural programme & DG Dinner was arranged on valediction. Member(Finance), Advisor(Finance) and Director, RAKNPA along with many DDsG were invited to the DG Dinner on 1st Sept 2023. Medals were awarded to OTs for their sports activities.

A CULTURAL NIGHT WITH IPOS AND IP&TAFS COMMUNITY

The last night of IPoS attachment at NICF consisted of a fun filled extravaganza of a cultural night filled with high decibel performances of dance, skit, vocals, instrument and poetry recitation. It was graced by the presence of Member (Finance), Advisor (Finance), DG, DDG, Director, and other senior officer from DoT, NICF and RAKNPA.



ENTHUSIASM FILLED SPORTS MEETUP

In a dynamic display of athletic prowess, our institution recently orchestrated an energetic sports meet, fostering friendly competition between participants from two distinguished services of IPoS and IP&TAFS within the Indian government. Under the overall guidance of DG NICF and DDG NICF, The Director, The Deputy Director, and the Sports Incharge played instrumental roles in ensuring the event's success. The sports meet featured intense badminton and table tennis clashes, engaging participants in thrilling matches across men's and women's singles categories. The courts echoed with the swift swishes of badminton rackets and the rhythmic bounce of table tennis balls as participants showcased their skills and sportsmanship.

In this 3 day meetup, the institution's sports community celebrated not only the victories on the courts but also the spirit of collaboration and healthy competition that defined this memorable sports meet.

THOUGHT PROVOKING DEBATES

In a riveting showcase of intellectual rigor, our institution hosted two thought-provoking debates that captivated minds and stirred conversations. Addressing diverse and critical topics, these debates demonstrated the institution's commitment to fostering analytical thinking and robust discourse. Participants (OTs) from two services IP&TAFS and IPoS engaged passionately, navigating the intricacies of each subject with eloquence and depth. The debate was moderated by Shri Ankit Anand, Director (TER), NICF and judged by Shri Awadhesh Kumar (DG NICF), Shri Abhay Kumar Singh (DDG NICF) and Shri Amarnath Ojha, (Deputy Director). The auditorium resonated with the echoes of well-reasoned arguments, challenging assumptions and prompting introspection. The first debate explored the possibility of India being developed by 2047. The second delved into the legality and ethicality of data protection bill. These thought-provoking discussions left an indelible mark, reinforcing the institution's role as a crucible for critical thinking and shaping informed perspectives.



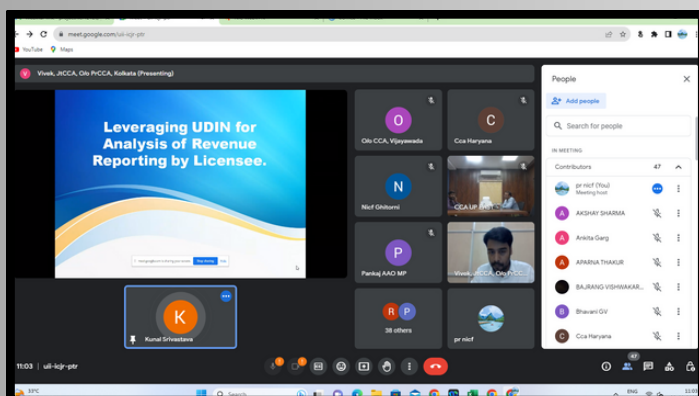
WEBINARS & HANDS ON TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY NICF

Webinar

1. Implementation on NACH Mandate for Performing NPS activities - Reg (14.07.2023)
2. Attitude & Behaviour Skills (26.07.2023)
3. Spectrum Management (28.07.2023)
4. How to use MCA 21 site for obtaining audited documents for Licenses by CCAs (01.08.2023)
5. Leveraging UDIN for Analysis of Revenue Reporting by Licensee (22.08.2023)
6. Social Impact Assessment of Bharat Net (12.09.2023)
7. CSI-HRMS (20.09.23 & 21.09.23)
8. Administration of GST in DoP (22:09.2023)

Hands on Training

1. SAMPANN Dated 13.09.2023 to 15.09.2023
2. SARAS for Master trainers Dated 22.09.2023 to 23.09.2023



Thoughts, opinions and art

Contributions of NICF trainees and staffs

POEM BY MS TARUNI PANDEY, IP&TAFS OT 2022

मैं नारी नारायणी, दुर्गा की अवतारी हूँ, दुर्योधन, दुशासन क्या, मैं स्वयं काल पर भारी हूँ।
मैं जगत्-जननी जगदम्बा, मां हूँ, बेटी भी प्यारी हूँ, मैं धरती से अंबर तक गंगा, यमुना, गोदावरी हूँ।
मैं मुंडमाल चंडी काली, सती सावित्री, सीता हूँ, मैं द्रौपदी, कुंती हूँ, मैं श्रीमद्भागवत गीता हूँ।
आक्रान्ताओं की व्यथा हूँ मैं, बलिदानों की गाथा हूँ, वीर सपूत शहीदों की मैहीं भारत माता हूँ।
मैं राजधर्म की आलिम हूँ, मैं शासन मैं सेना हूँ, प्रथम सम्राज्ञी भारत की, मैं रजिया सुल्ताना हूँ।
दुराचार दुष्कर्म के लिए, मैं खंजर की धार हूँ, मैं वीरांगना झांसी वाली, लक्ष्मीबाई की तलवार हूँ।
असहाय मजलूमों की मैं, मदर टेरेसा अम्मा हूँ, रण आजादी की सहभागी, मैडम भीखाजी कामा हूँ।
मैं कूटनीति, मैं राजनीति, मैं प्रेरणा की सार हूँ, मैं भारत कोकिला सरोजिनी, मैं इंदिरा सरकार हूँ।
मैं कानून की बागडोर, मैं न्यायालय की विधि हूँ, मैं अन्ना मैं किरण हूँ, मैं फातिमा बीवी हूँ।
बछेंद्री पाल हिमालय की, मैं अंतरिक्ष की कल्पना हूँ, ऋतु करिधाल हूँ इसरो की, मैं चन्द्रयान का सपना हूँ।
मैं धात्विक मैं सुरबाला, मैं तेजस मैं सौम्य हूँ, स्वर कोकिला, उड़नपरी, नीरजा मैरी कॉम हूँ।
मैं संसद की बैठक हूँ, मैं मौलिक अधिकार हूँ, नवयुग के भारत का मैं, तैंतीस फीसदी सरकार हूँ।
मैं नारी नारायणी, शक्ति की अवतारी हूँ, पराक्रमी सामर्थ्यवान, मैं क्षमता की परिचारी हूँ।
हाँ मैं सशक्त नारी हूँ, हाँ मैं सशक्त नारी हूँ।

POEM BY MS REET SUNDARAM, IP&TAFS OT 2022

Telecom Reshaping Rural India

In hamlets where the winds of silence stirred,
Telecommunication whispers, a promise incurred.

Fiber-optic tendrils weave a new tale,
Rural landscapes transforming, a digital trail.

Through fields of green and pastures wide,
Connectivity blossoms, a digital guide.
In the heart of simplicity, wires entwine,
Linking minds in a dance, a binary sign.

Once disconnected, now nodes align,
Empowering villages with signals divine.
Voices echo through the rural expanse,
A symphony of progress, a tech-enhanced dance.

Beyond the horizon of yesteryears' plight,
Telecom futures paint a canvas of light.
From agrarian wisdom to bytes of insight,
Rural India awakens, a digital flight.

Through the whispers of towers that pierce the sky,
Knowledge blooms, ignorance bids goodbye.
In the quietude of fields, a revolution is sown,
Telecommunication, a bridge to the unknown.

E-marketplaces thrive in cyber bazaars,
Empowering artisans beneath twinkling stars.
In the glow of screens, education springs,
A metamorphosis of rural offerings.

Agriculture marries algorithms in tandem grace, Satellites aid farmers in the
vast rural space. Smart villages emerge from the cocoon,
Telecommunication, the catalyst, the boon.

As the sun sets on tradition, a new dawn unfurls, Telecom echoes through
the rural swirls. In every byte, a story retold, Of a future where connectivity
is pure gold.

PAINTINGS BY MS PALLAVI CHINCHKHEDE, IP&TAFS OT 2022



ARTICLE BY SH GADADHAR RATH, AAO, NICF

World Post Day, is celebrated every year on 9th October, the foundation day of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Being a member of UPU, India Post celebrates National Postal Week starting from World Post Day to create awareness of Postal services and their contribution towards the socio-economic development of the country.

India Post is the largest postal network in the world having 1,59,251 Post Offices out of which 15,266 urban P.Os and 1,43,985 Rural P.Os. On average 8,627 people are served by a P.O. in the country as a whole. In a rural area, a P.O. serves 6,229 people whereas, in an urban area, a P.O. serves 31,242 people in an average area of 20.64 sq K.Ms.

If we go back to history the first P.O. was set up in Kolkata in the year 1727. Thereafter three GPOs were also set up in the presidencies of Kolkata (1774), Chennai (1786) and Mumbai (1793). The present postal system came into operation with the IPO Act of 1854 and since October 1854 it has been playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the country and connecting its parts. Due to the use of the internet, smartphones and social media like WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook etc., postal communications have been reduced drastically throughout the world. So, India Post has changed its strategy by introducing value-added and e-services to meet the expectations of its customers.

Under IT Modernization Project 1.0 India Post has been transformed into a Technology enabled & self-reliant market leader by providing Core Banking Services (CBS) to POSB customers through 25,110 Departmental Post Offices and 1000 ATMs (one in each District Headquarters) which are inter-operable with other banks. Internet Banking and Mobile Banking service facilities were started by India Post on 14.12.2018 and 15.10.2019 respectively. Under Rural ICT Project DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India) 1,29,854 Branch P.Os have been supplied computer hardware, solar charging devices and SIM-based point of sale (POS) handheld devices. Under Mail operation, the Hardware Project Department has supplied computers, hardware and peripherals to Mail Offices and smartphones to delivery Postmen. The Union Cabinet has given its approval for IT Modernization Project 2.0 with an outlay of Rs5,785 Crores which envisages the use of technology as a means to achieve the ultimate goal of efficient service delivery.

India Post being a customer-friendly organization emphasizes on specific customer requirements and introduced several premium services like Speed Post, Business Parcel, Retail Post, e-post, e-payment, e-MO, Logistic Post and Business Post to meet the present-day requirements. Due to growth in the e-commerce market in recent years, the Department established a separate parcel Directorate in the year 2018 and taking action to increase Parcel handling capacity from existing nearly 3.8 lakh Parcels per day in 2021-22 to approximately 5.3 lakh Parcels per day by 2025-26.

To improve the delivery service India Post has established Automated Mail Processing Centers in Delhi & Kolkata where a letter sorting Machine and a Mixed Mail Sorter having a sorting capacity of 35,000 and 18,000 items per hour respectively have been installed. e-Clearance of letter boxes has been implemented for 55,150 letter boxes in the country by December 2022.

Speed Post was started by India Post in August 1986 to provide time-bound services between specified locations. During these 37 years, it became the market leader in the domestic express industry handling about 45 crores of consignments per year with the facility of booking/delivery in maximum P.Os including B.Os functioning in rural areas. Speed Post became the first choice of people for sending their valuable documents. As per the Report 20 of 2015 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India "Speed Post delivers with maximum accuracy" and as per Home Ministry report over 100 tons of medicines, testing kits and ventilators have been delivered to hospitals and other consumers by India Post during lockdown due to Covid 19. India Post provides an Aadhaar updation and enrolment facility through 13,352 Pos. Above 47,38,000 enrolments and 1,58,70,600 updations have been done from 1st Jan 2022 to 31st December 2022.

The Jeevan Praman Centre (JPC) service for pensioners for submitting Digital Life Certificates (DLC) has been provided by India Post since 30th June 2015 through 806 Head Post Offices across the country. The facility of DLCs at the doorstep of pensioners has also been started by the Department at a nominal fee through India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) on request through "Post info App". A total number of 2.77 Lakh Digital Life Certificates have been issued from October 2022 to December 2022.

Both the Ministry of External Affairs and Communications have agreed to provide Passport services through selected Head Post Offices in various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) since 25.01.2017. About 430 POPSKs have been opened up to 2022 and above 27,55,600 applications have been processed in these POPSKs from January 2022 to December 2022.

India Post provides the following services under Retail Post. Collection of utility bills like electricity, telephone, water, Gas and taxes, fees etc. Railway reservation tickets for all classes at selected Post Offices as per MOU with the Ministry of Railways since 31.07.2007. The service is available at 307 Post Offices nationwide as of 31.03.2022. Head Post Offices are accepting applications for the "Sovereign Gold Bond scheme" at the time SGB tranches are opened by the RBI. Gangajal sourced from Gangotri is available in bottles to the public at the doorstep through more than 4,000 P.O.s and through an online portal i.e., "ePostoffice.gov.in". The department has made agreements with more than 65 Holy shrines for the delivery of Prasadam & offerings at the doorstep of devotees.

The oldest life insurance scheme for the benefit of Govt/Semi Govt employees is PLI which was introduced in 1884 and now it has widened its service area to recognized schools, registered professionals like Doctors, Engineers, Consultants, CAs, Architects, Lawyers, MBAs, all Graduates /Diploma holders, Bankers and employees of listed companies with NSE/BSE. RPLI was introduced in 1995 for the benefit of rural people.

IPPB is a public limited company under the control of Department Post with a target to become the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank where banking facilities are not available. Till 31st March 2022, IPPB has offered payment bank services through 1.37 lakh IPPB Access Points in POs out of which 1.20 lakh are in rural areas. About 6.10 Crore IPPB accounts have been opened in Digital and paperless mode (90% of customers are from rural India). Accounts of 98% of women have been opened at their doorstep and more than 68% of women's accounts received DBT benefits. During the COVID-19 lockdown period, an amount of more than Rs 24,430 crore was delivered to the doorsteps of customers in hotspots and migrant camps.

To commemorate, celebrate and promote national heritage, culture, events and personalities India Post releases Postage Stamps. Many stamps were released to highlight the country's achievements in socio-economic development by depicting them like steel plants and Dams etc. Recently Maharashtra Postal Circle has released a special cancellation at Mumbai GPO on the very day of the successful soft landing of lander Vikram on the south polar region of the moon.

Though the trend has shifted to digital mail and the tech era, still people need India Post for communication and the socio-economic development of the country.

(This article has been published in 9th October 2023 Bhubaneswar edition of National English Daily "the Pioneer" on World Post Day.)

THE DANCE OF RAIN

BY AYUSH RAJ



In this captivating photograph, the viewer is transported into a world veiled by a symphony of raindrops. Captured amidst a gentle downpour, the image paints a picturesque scene of urban serenity. As rain cascades from the sky, the cityscape transforms into a mesmerizing tapestry of reflections, accentuating the beauty of each mundane surface.

The photograph showcases the magic of rainfall, transforming the bustling streets into a tranquil oasis. The soft pitter-patter of rain creates a soothing melody, blending harmoniously with the city's natural hum. The rhythmic beats of raindrops splashing on pavement form an enchanting composition, inviting the viewer to listen closely immerse themselves in the audiovisual spectacle. Against the backdrop of overcast skies, the vibrancy stand out more vividly. Traffic lights and neon signs cast their warm glows onto rain-washed surfaces, adding a touch of romance to the wet surroundings. Umbrellas and raincoats dot the scene, creating pops of color that symbolize the resilience and adaptability of city dwellers amidst the ever-changing weather.

The photo captures a moment of poetic juxtaposition, where the rainwater seemingly washes away the worries of the world, cleansing the city of its stress and troubles. It reminds us of the beauty that can be found in embracing the unpredictable and appreciating the transitory beauty of life.

As we gaze upon this captivating photograph of raining, we are reminded of the profound connection between humans and nature. Rainfall brings life and rejuvenation to the Earth, and in turn, city dwellers find solace and inspiration in the comforting rhythm of the rain. It is a gentle reminder that, in the midst of our busy lives, we must take a moment to pause, reflect, and cherish the moments that make up the symphony of life.

रिश्तो की यथार्थता

लेखिका संगीता अग्रवाल , सहायक लेखाधिकारी , कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक (पीएएफ), डाक लेखा, लखनऊ

आज अपने कुछ संस्मरण आप के साथ साझा कर रही हूँ, जिन्होंने मेरे मन को अत्यंत हर्षित किया है। कुछ समय पहले की यह घटना है। मेरी बहन एवं हम सब बाजार से अपनी पसंद के कपड़े पसंद कर रहे थे, दूकानदार बहुत सी साड़ियाँ दिखाते हुए कहने लगा की मैडम आप क्यों चिंता करती है, आपके पास तो दो दो ए टी एम् है, वो कोई भी साड़ी १५००० से कम कीमत की नहीं दिखा रहा था , वो जान चूका था की मेरी बहन के पति एवं उसका बेटा साथ आये है एवं वो उसको मनपसंद साड़ी दिलाना चाहते है।

इधर मेरी दीदी सोच रही थी की इतनी महँगी साड़ी एक उत्सव में ही पहनो फिर आलमारी में ही रहेगी तो क्यों न थोड़ी सस्ती साड़ी ही खरीदी जाय. खैर उस दिन पसंद न आने का बहाना बना दीदी ने साड़ी नहीं खरीदी.

घर आने पर दीदी के बेटा ने कहा मम्मी आप अब तो महँगी साड़ियाँ पहना करिए. अब तो मै भी नौकरी करने लगा हूँ. पहले कुछ और बात थी. पापा अकेले कमाने वाले ऊपर से हम लोगो की पढाई लिखाई. पुरानी बातें सोचते हुए दीदी का बेटा बहुत भावुक हो गया.

सब लोगो के साथ उसकी मम्मी भी शोपिंग के लिए जाती लेकिन जब महँगी साड़ी पसंद आने पर उसे अलग सरका देती और फिर कहती की मुझे पसंद नहीं आई और कोई दूसरी सस्ती साड़ी ले आती.

लेकिन बहन का बेटा हमेशा सोचता की क्यों मम्मी बहुत अच्छी साड़ी नहीं लेती. छोटा होने के कारण वो सही बात नहीं समझ पाता था । सब जब कहते की दीदी कोई दूसरी और अच्छी साड़ी क्यों नहीं लिया, तो दीदी हमेशा यही कहती की उन्हें जो पसंद थी, उन्होंने वही लिया.

बेटा तब बहुत छोटा था इस्सलिये वह कारण नहीं समझ पाता था ।

एक दिन दीदी को शाम को एक फेमस साड़ी की दुकान पर चलने को कह कर बेटा ऑफिस चला गया । साथ ही यह भी कहा की पिछली बार की तरह कोई बहाना मत बनाइएगा । इस बार जो पसंद हो बेहिचक खरीदिएगा ।

इधर दीदी ने सोचा की ये तो अभी बहुत बड़ा नहीं हुआ है, मुझे जरूर बहुत महँगी साड़ी खरीदवा देगा इसलिए उन्होंने दूकानदार को फ़ोन करके कह दिया की जब दीदी शाम को उनकी दुकान पर परिवार के साथ आये तो वह उन्हें ४००० या ५००० तक की ही साड़ी दिखाएँ ।

इधर बेटा ऑफिस से लौटते समय सोचने लगा की मम्मी फिर से महँगी होने के कारन अपनी पसंद की साड़ी नहीं लेंगी, इस्सलिये उसने भी दूकानदार को फ़ोन करके कहा की अंकल जी आप शाम को मम्मी को जो भी साड़ी दिखाइएगा उसकी कीमत ४००० या ५००० हजार कम करके बताइयेगा जिससे मम्मी अपनी पसंद की साड़ी बेहिचक ले पायें.

यह सुन कर दूकानदार जो परिवार से पहले से ही परिचित था सोचने लगा की इस समय भी ऐसे बच्चे है जो अपने परिवार का इतना ध्यान रखते है ।

शाम को दीदी अपने परिवार के साथ जब दूकानदार के पास पहुंची तो वो बहुत सुंदर साड़ियाँ उन्हें दिखाने लगा । जिसमे से एक दीदी को पसंद आ गई क्योंकि उन्होंने सोचा की दूकानदार तो कीमत बढ़ा के ही बता रहा होगा जैसा उन्होंने दूकानदार से पहले ही बात कर ली थी । इधर बेटा भी खुश था की दूकानदार साड़ी कीमत कम करके बता रहा होगा जैसा उसने पहले ही बात कर ली थी ।

बेटे ने बाद में साड़ी की सही कीमत दूकानदार को चुकाते हुए उनका धन्यवाद किया तो दूकानदार ने कहा की बेटा जब बच्चे पढ़ते लिखते है तो हर घर में ऐसी परिस्थितियां आती है,,जैब माता पिता अपने बच्चो की लिए अपने खर्चों को सीमित कर लेते है, पर आज जो आप अपने माता पिता के लिए कर रहे है ऐसा बहुत कम देखने को मिलता है। आज मुझे जीवन में रिश्तों का महत्व व उसे निभाने की बहुत बड़ी कला सीखने को मिली ।

NO INTERNET, NO CELL PHONE, EVEN THEN CAN YOU COMMUNICATE?

Yes, it is possible.

How?

Using the old scientific hobby.

Namely Amateur Wireless Radio.

Amateur wireless radio popularly known as HAM radio is a cool hobby which lets one to communicate with new people, make new friends and learn about electronics, communication, propagation and different cultures. Ham Radio enables one to do chatting through wireless radio with others anywhere in the world even to astronauts on the International Space Station without using the Internet or a cell phone. It uses shortwave wireless radio to talk around the world using an inexpensive transceiver and even with a wire thrown up into a tree as antenna.

These hobbyists use their wireless radio even in making communications during emergencies. During a disaster or emergency, when telephones, mobile network do not work, wireless radio may be the only way to communicate. Many Ham Radio hobbyists volunteer to help in making communication during such calamities, emergency.

If you have ever wondered why amateur radio operators are called hams, the story goes like this: HAM was the station call of the first amateur wireless station, operated by amateurs from the Harvard Radio Club. Their names were Albert S Hyman, Bob Almy and Poogie Murray. The name HAM was taken from the first letters of their surnames. Ham operators also say that the word signifies **Help All Mankind**.

Any License Required?

Firstly one must obtain License from WPC Wing of DoT, to operate HAM Radio. One has to qualify the exam conducted by the WMO (Wireless Monitoring Organisation) of DoT. It requires basic electronics knowledge with learnt communication procedures and Rules to qualify this exam. For obtaining high grades of License which permits one to use High Power Wireless Radio, one must qualify in Morse Telegraphic Code test also.

Is there any Fee?

Yes. Of course, the License Fee (LF). The LF for HAM Radio in India is only ` 1000 for 20 years and ` 2000 for Life Time to have the License to operate wireless radio under Amateur Wireless Category. After all LF paid, the WPC will issue License with call sign to identify the specific amateur wireless operator. In India, these operators are allotted with a call sign with pre-fix VU. Each Country is having a separate pre-fix to easily identify the location of the operator.

The World Call Sign map below may be referred for call sign pre-fix of various countries. VU for India, VE for Australia, 4S for Sri Lanka.... Some call signs of commonly known persons are Amitabh Bachchan VU2 AMY late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi VU2 RG Kamal Hassan (Cine Actor) VU2 HAS Charuhasan (Cine Actor) VU2 SCU Mammooty (Cine Actor) VU2 PIJ Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin UA1 LO

This year WPC, DoT(HQ) issued permission for Indian HAMs to use the suffix “3CY” with their Call Sign for making wireless contacts from 23rd Aug, 2023 to 30th Aug, 2023 to commemorate the success of Chandrayaan 3 mission. Ham (Wireless) Radio Equipment It is like a simple radio transmitter and receiver which can be built and setup on a table, using simple and low cost equipment.

The ham radio receives radio signals just like your home radio set. The only difference is that your home radio set receives signals only from a radio station. A ham radio receives signals from another ham radio. So, each ham radio is like a radio station-cum-radio-receiver built into one. It is actually like operating a radio station from your home. Normally the equipment is called a Transceiver. Even one can design, assemble and make their own transceivers, if one has the scientific thirst.

Not only through voice, one HAM can communicate through other modes like digital communication through wireless using computers, television (Slow Scan TeleVision-SSTV and lastly through telegraphic Morse code.

Which Spectrum Bands are allotted to HAMs?

Radio means it should use some radio frequency (RF) range to transmit electromagnetic waves. As HAM Radio is of amateur in nature and it's being used for scientific exploration and even in research, few frequency bands are allotted to HAM Radio operators by charging very nominal LF (License Fee). To know about the latest details of frequencies allotted to HAM Radio (Amateur Radio) purpose in India, one can refer the National Frequency Allocation Plan – 2022 (NFAP-2022) released by WPC Wing of DoT (HQ) which is available in DoT Website.

Hams Radio operators mainly use High Frequency (Short wave), Very High Frequency (FM Band) and UHF Ultra High Frequency among the allotted spectrum. Most HAMs use shortwave radio i.e HF Band that bounce off the sky and it covers long distance. VHF (FM Band) is used by Ham Radio operators to talk with short distance communication which is maximum covers line of sight distance. One can use VHF Band to communicate with astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS). I communicated with International Space Station through SSTV (Slow Scan TeleVision) mode.

Any Fun of Sport other than Talking?

There are many ways to have fun with HAM radio. Many games and contests are being conducted by these operators among themselves. Collection of QSL Cards (QSL Card is exchange of acknowledgement of making wireless contact between HAMs) from wireless operators from different countries, is like Philatelic Collection. Many Contests are being conducted among HAMs for making maximum wireless contacts in a day. Fox Hunt

It's game of finding a hidden transmitter which sends out a RF signal. Others try to find it using receivers with directional antenna. This is called Radio direction finding, fox hunting or Radio sport. Sometimes the event is done with cars, or as a foot race.

Does this finds use in Any other way?

Other than just talking, chatting with friends through wireless, this hobby is even helpful in communication between trekkers while Trekking in mountains and forest. Using hand held transceivers the trekking teams find easy to communicate with one another while trekking where mostly no range exist for cell phone signal.

Hams also are doing help others using their skills during natural calamities. Usually, when a powerful disaster strikes, most mainstream communication services (like cellphones,

internet) stop working. However, since establishing a ham radio set up will take less time and doesn't need much infrastructure to work, it continues to function during such calamities. As a result, ham radio operators serve as essential communication channels in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts during disasters. I volunteered in making communication with affected areas using ham radio equipment during Tsunami.

Ham Population In India

India has an enthusiastic community of hams, spread across the country. Most of hams are based in South India (Kerala, TN & Karnataka). Bengaluru, the amateur radio capital of India, has about 5,000 amateur radio operators.

Few Interesting Terms

Interestingly, in ham radio terminology, male radio operators are called Old Men (OM) and women are called Young Ladies (YL), irrespective of their actual age!

Is there any Restrictions ?

Of course, the conversation through Amateur Wireless should avoid advertisements, news, reproduction of broadcast, business, statements on political controversy, etc., as laid down in conduct rules of Indian Amateur Wireless Telegraph Station Rules (which can be referred), in DoT website.

What Else?

Even as modern forms of communication such as mobiles and the internet have edged out the radio, the tightly-knit global community of ham operators continues to thrive. Worldwide, there are more than three million hams in the world. Ham

licensed astronauts on the International Space Station also spend their free time at the space station's ham setup just chatting with ham operators at Earth at random. If one tries at right time, can get a small window to chat with astronauts in Space Station too!

Last year 2022, Indian National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research selected one **HAM from Delhi, Mr.Sarabjeet Singh Chhabra – VU2CUW** for it's team which conducts **Indian Scientific Research Expedition to the Indian Antarctica Base Stations.**

If interested, one can try learning Very Basic Electronics, clear the test conducted by WMO and enjoy the Hobby of ever-evolving wireless technologies, for which Sky is the limit.

Good Luck!

L.Nellaiappan @ Ganapathi, VU2 LGN

**AAO Induction Trainee (21st Batch), NICF, Ghitorni
(AAO, PAO, Thiruvananthapuram)**

BHARAT DARSHAN PHASE 1 FOR OTS OF 2022 BATCH

Bharat Darshan, a term that translates to "Tour of India," is a unique initiative aimed at fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the cultural, historical, and geographical diversity that India offers. This program is not just a journey across the physical landscapes of the country but a profound exploration of its rich heritage and traditions. As a Part of Bharat Darshan, officer trainees of 2022 batch visited the Parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Kerala.



INDIAN MOBILE CONGRESS, 2023

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. IMC is the largest telecom, media, and technology forum in Asia to be held from 27th to 29th October 2023 with the theme 'Global Digital Innovation'. The IMC 2023 aims to strengthen India's position as a developer, manufacturer, and exporter of key cutting-edge technologies. During the program, the Prime Minister awarded 100 '5G Use Case Labs' to educational institutions across the country.

The IMC is organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). These entities collaborate to ensure the success and relevance of the event.

The National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) played a significant role in the success of the IMC by actively contributing through the provision of volunteers and organizing insightful sessions. One such significant session was on the Spectrum Economics & Policy for a Digital Tomorrow.

"Spectrum Economics & Policy for a Digital Tomorrow":

In a significant initiative, the National Institute of Communication Finance orchestrated a compelling session on "Spectrum Economics & Policy for a Digital Tomorrow" on October 29, 2023, at Hall No. 6, PragatiMaidan, New Delhi, held in conjunction with the India Mobile Congress 2023. Sh. Manish Sinha, Member (Finance), DCC, delivered a noteworthy keynote address, setting the stage for an insightful discourse. Notably, the event garnered the attention of Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, DoT, who attended the event and actively engaged in discussions with the distinguished speakers. This collaborative endeavour aimed to delve into crucial facets of communication finance, marking a commendable stride toward shaping the digital landscape of tomorrow.

First session delves into the imperative role of spectrum allocation in achieving a 1 trillion-dollar digital economy. Conducted as part of the Indian Mobile Congress on October 29, 2023, the panel discussion highlighted key aspects. Notably, spectrum allocation is vital for the evolution of 5G and beyond, supporting high-speed data transmission, Internet of Things connectivity, and smart city initiatives. The multi-faceted approach outlined in the report emphasizes substantial infrastructure investment, supportive policies, skill development, and regulatory collaboration. The panel, including industry leaders and government officials like Lt. gen dr. S.P. Kochhar, director general, COAI, Ms Luciana Camargos, head of spectrum, GSMA, Sh. V J Christopher, wireless advisor, DoT Hq , Sh. Ashwani Kumar, head of spectrum & 6G engagement ,Nokia, Sh. N. Jairam (senior director -marketing), Hughes communications India, moderated by prof Brijesh Lall, Professor, electrical engineering Department IIT Delhi, discussed spectrum economics, emphasizing the transformative potential for India's economy. Issues such as spectrum sharing, dynamic spectrum access, and regulatory frameworks were explored, underscoring the need for efficient spectrum usage amidst growing demands. The report concludes with a call for collaborative, forward-thinking strategies to balance technological innovation, economic growth, and social progress in achieving a digitally empowered future. Overall, the document provides a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in spectrum management for India's digital aspirations.



Second session provides a synopsis of a panel discussion held at the Indian Mobile Congress on October 29, 2023, focusing on "Spectrum Valuation & Pricing for Affordable Access to Digital Communication." Panelists included industry experts such as Sh. Rahul Vatts from Bharti Airtel, Mr. Luiz Felipe Zoghbi from GSMA, Prof. Rohit Prasad, MDI, Gurgaon, Dr. Mahesh Uppal, Director, Com First, Sh. Praveen Pogiri, Director (WF), DoT HQ. The discussion was moderated by Sh. Amit Sharma, Advisor (F&EA)-I, TRAI. The session explored spectrum valuation methods, encompassing factors like usage, license duration, and economic growth. Various approaches, including opportunity cost, benchmarking, and business modeling, were discussed in the Indian context, revealing methods used by TRAI, such as the producer surplus and multiple regression approaches. Addressing spectrum pricing for affordable access, the importance of reasonable pricing for telecom services and suggestions for spectrum swapping and bundling backhaul were highlighted. The discussion also touched on financing spectrum, emphasizing the need for flexibility, shorter license durations, and innovative financing mechanisms. International best practices were examined, emphasizing the importance of prudent decision-making and policy shifts in spectrum pricing. The report concludes with a call for a delicate balance between government revenue, public affordability, and operator investment to ensure optimal spectrum utilization and foster economic growth.

Third session highlights key insights from a panel discussion on the evolution of auction designs and market mechanisms for optimal spectrum allocation. Panelists included experts Sh. Ravi Gandhi, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Sh. Kaushal Kishore, Pr. Advisor (F&EA), TRAI, Mr. Luiz Felipe Zoghbi, GSMA, Sh. Bharat B. Bhatia, President, ITU APT Foundation of India, Dr. Rajeev Shorey (PhD), Honorary Professor, The University of Queensland, Australia. The session was moderated by Sh. S.K. Mishra, Ex Advisor (Finance). Emphasizing the need for an efficient spectrum policy, the report suggests maximizing productivity, utilizing markets, and ensuring flexible use. It addresses challenges in spectrum efficiency, exemplified by the underutilization of the 6GHz band for mobile communication. The discussion underscores the importance of spectrum valuation, reserve price setting, and auction design, emphasizing economic efficiency and market-driven allocation. Various auction models, including Simultaneous Multiple Round Auctions (SMRA), Combinatorial Clock Auctions (CCA), and Reverse Auctions, are analysed, considering their advantages and applications.

The report highlights the winner's curse in SMRA, where the highest bidder may overpay. It concludes with recommendations for enhancing transparency, avoiding collusion, and striking a balance between revenue generation and telecom sector sustainability in spectrum auctions. Overall, the report provides valuable insights into the complexities of spectrum policy and auction mechanisms for fostering a digital tomorrow.

Fourth session on "Satellite Connectivity in India: Viability, Inclusion, and Roadmap" delved into the practicality of satellite broadband, retail coverage feasibility, and investments in the sector, emphasizing the evolution of satellite communications globally and its Indian perspective. Panelists included experts Sh. Satyam Kushwaha, Director, ISPAI, Sh. Keyur Gandhi, Associate Director – Space Regulatory, Dhruva Space, Sh. Anil Prakash, DG, SatCom Industry Association, Sh. Rajeev Shorey (PhD), Honorary Professor, The University of Queensland, Australia and Sh. Ravi Gandhi, Chief Regulatory Officer, Reliance Jio. The session was moderated by Shri M.K. Pattanaik, Sr DWA, DoT Hq. Key discussions revolved around the significance of satellites in India's digital future, challenges in regulatory mechanisms, the role of space in strategic connectivity, and the need for innovation in satellite technology. Emphasis was also placed on inclusive digital connectivity, overcoming challenges in satellite infrastructure economics, and the strategic importance of satellite spectrum for national security. The report concluded by highlighting the necessity for administrative allocation of satellite spectrum, the manufacturing of communication equipment in India, and declaring space spectrum as infrastructure to align with India's space aspirations.



A SPECTACULAR NEW YEARS' CELEBRATION AT NICF HOSTEL

As the clock struck midnight on December 31, 2023, the National Institute of Communication Finance (NICF) hostel came alive with vibrant energy and excitement. Trainees from various walks of life, residing in the hostel for their induction training and other training programme, gathered together to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the promises of the new one in a celebration to remember.



The NICF known for its commitment to fostering a sense of community among trainees, organized a spectacular New Year's Eve celebration at short notice to ensure that those staying in the hostel had a memorable and joyous start to 2024. The event was meticulously planned to create an atmosphere of camaraderie and festivity. The area in front of Community Hall was transformed into a festive space, adorned with twinkling lights and music system. The ambiance was set for an evening of joy and unity.

The highlight of the evening was a series of engaging activities and performances. Trainees showcased their talents through dance and music, bringing forth a multitude of cultural expressions. It was a platform for individuals to not only display their skills but also to connect with each other on a personal level, strengthening the bonds within the NICF community.



To make the moment even more special, Ms. Madhavi Das, Director General, NICF, Shri Abhay Kumar Singh, Dy. Director General, NICF, Shri Ankit Anand, Director, NICF, Shri Kunal Srivastava, Dy. Director NICF and other senior officers residing in the NICF Campus arrived at venue to wish all the trainees on this occasion.

The NICF's New Year's Eve celebration at the hostel had not only marked the beginning of a new year but also reinforced the institute's commitment to creating a supportive and vibrant community for its trainees.

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF GROUP B OFFICERS

Training programs play a pivotal role in enhancing the skills, knowledge, and efficiency of government officers, especially those in Group B. These officers are the backbone of various government departments and agencies, and their effectiveness directly impacts the implementation of policies and programs.

Along with the academics and study tour to Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration, group B officers displayed enthusiastic involvement in various extra-curricular activities like sports and cultural program.



Study Tour to Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Shimla from 04.12.2023 to 08.12.2023.

As part of the induction training at NICF, a one-week capsule course was arranged at Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), located at a distance of 7 KM from Shimla, during the period from 04.12.2023 to 08.12.2023; consisting of in-classroom interactions as well as exposure visits.

The visit aimed to provide invaluable insights into various aspects of Public Administration, Governance, Disaster Management, and personality development.

IICA ATTACHMENT OF OFFICER TRAINEES OF BATCH 2021 AND 2022

A joint attachment was organized at IICA Manesar during 06.11.2023 to 10.11.2023 for all the 17 OTs of 2021 and 2022 Batch. During 5 days of training program, various lectures were held focusing on financial reporting and corporate affairs to equip participants with the basic skills and knowledge required in navigating the intricate landscape of corporate financial reporting. It also incorporated the details of Corporate law, Companies Act, IBC and various aspects of the emerging field of ESG i.e. Environmental, Social, and Governance. The participants also visited Sterlite Technologies, a prominent player in the field of digital connectivity. The purpose of the visit was to gain insights into Sterlite's contributions to the digital infrastructure, understand their technological advancements, and evaluate the role of private players in shaping the landscape of digital connectivity.

The attachment concluded with valedictory session followed by gala dinner and musical night.



TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ITS OTS ON “FINANCE FOR NON-FINANCE OFFICERS”

A Training Program for 34 Nos Gr-A ITS OTs Batch-2020, 2021 & 2022 was organized on “Finance for Non-Finance Officers” during 25.09.2023 to 06.10.2023 with the objective of equipping ITS OTs with essential financial knowledge and skills. The program aimed to bridge the gap between non-finance professionals and financial concepts, fostering a better understanding of financial practices and enhancing decision-making capabilities. The Training was inaugurated by Advisor (F), DoT. Sports Tournament was organized during the training and winners were awarded. At the end of training cultural program followed by the DG dinner were organized.



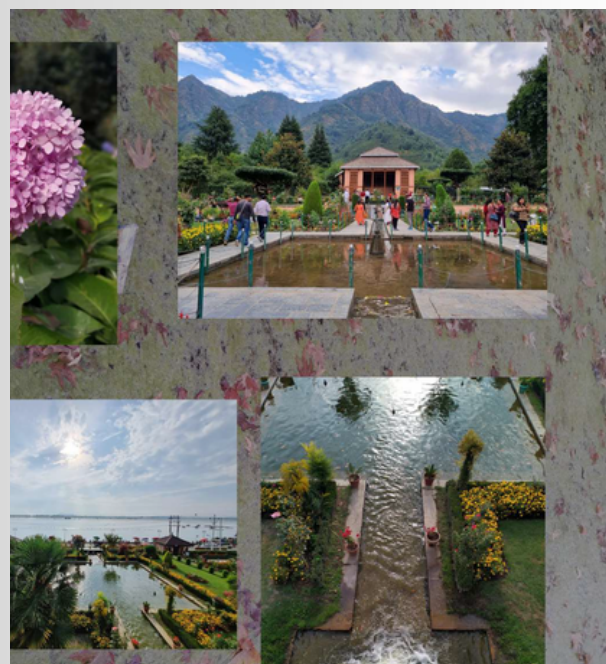
VISIT TO DOT HQ AND DMRC

During the Administration & Management module, a Joint visit of all the OTs 2021 and 2022 Batch was organized to DoT HQ on 06.07.2023 for Interaction with Member (F), DCC, DoT and other Sr Officers of HQ. Along with this, the Field Visit to DMRC through Pr. CCA, Delhi was organized on 07.07.2023 for the OTs of both the batches.



CAPSULE COURSE AT IMPARD, SRINAGAR SPONSORED BY NICF

The 35 IPTAFS Group B Officers Training in Jammu and Kashmir proved to be an invaluable experience for all participants. It not only enhanced their understanding of critical subjects such as leadership, disaster management, and good governance but also allowed them to appreciate the cultural, natural, and religious heritage of this remarkable region. The knowledge and skills acquired during the training will undoubtedly contribute to positive work development and better service delivery by the trainees in their respective roles. This training program underscored the importance of continuous learning and exposure for public servants, ensuring their readiness to face the challenges of a dynamic work environment.



WELCOMING IP&TAFS OTS OF BATCH 2023

Welcoming new recruits to training is a critical step in establishing a positive and inclusive atmosphere that sets the tone for a successful training program. A well-planned and warm welcome not only helps newcomers acclimate to their training environment but also fosters a sense of belonging and motivation. The new recruits of IP&TAFS batch 2023, selected through UPSC CSE 2022 joined NICF on 28.12.2023. The orientation module was inaugurated by honourable Sh. Manish Sinha, Member (F), DCC.



FINAL VALEDICTION OF OTS OF 2021 BATCH

The OTs of IP&TAFS 2021 Batch have been relieved after successful completion of their Induction Training for their first posting. The completion of the training program and the transition to operational postings mark a significant achievement for both the recruits and the organization. The success of this process is indicative of the commitment to continuous learning and development. The insights gained from the post-training assessments will inform future training strategies, ensuring that they remain dynamic and relevant to the evolving needs of personnel in their operational roles. NICF looks forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of all the OTs as they embark on their professional journeys.



*Beyond the Academics
and work: Activities that
Make a Difference!*

Swachhta Pakhwada

Swachhta Pakhwada, or Cleanliness Fortnight, is a special initiative undertaken by the Government of India to promote cleanliness and hygiene across the nation. The campaign is a dedicated period during which various activities and programs are organized to create awareness and encourage active participation in cleanliness drives. Swachhta Pakhwada stands as a testament to the nation's commitment to cleanliness and hygiene. It reflects a collective effort to transform India into a cleaner and healthier society. While the fortnight serves as a catalyst for change, the real impact lies in the sustained efforts of individuals, communities, and institutions working towards a Swachh Bharat – a vision that transcends the confines of a fortnightly campaign and becomes an integral part of our daily lives.



Rashtriya Ekta Divas

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also known as National Unity Day, is observed in India on 31st October each year to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas stands as a symbol of India's commitment to unity and integration. It reinforces the idea that despite the myriad differences, India is one nation, bound by a shared history, destiny, and a collective vision for a prosperous and harmonious future. By remembering Sardar Patel's monumental contributions, the day inspires each Indian to contribute towards the nation's unity, echoing his famous words, "Manpower without unity is not a strength unless it is harmonized and united properly, then it becomes a spiritual power." As a tribute and commitment to the same ethos of unity, NICF organised the "Run for Unity".



Diwali at NICF



Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most celebrated festivals in India. It marks the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. While Diwali is primarily a family-oriented festival, its spirit is not confined to homes; it permeates workplaces as well, including government offices. Following the same spirit, entire campus of NICF was lightened up and decorated with rangolis and diyas.

THE GLIMPSES OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES





(हिंदी पखवाड़े के दौरान रंगोली बनाते कर्मचारी)

PATRON

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