

IDN or Internationalized Domain Names refers to the Internet Domain Names which are entered in the URL of the browser to access a site. This domain name provides a unique identity and on clicking on a given domain name, the webpage of the particular user opens up. Hitherto IDN's were available only in Latin characters and therefore, having your domain name in an Indian language/script was impossible. ICANN and the initiative of the Government of India have ensured that you can have your domain name in an Indian language and soon be able to type: www.सीडैक.भारत and access the C-DAC site.

Over the past three years, C-DAC, GIST, Pune in close association with DIT and with contributions from C-DAC Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram has evolved a policy document for Internationalized Domain Names in Indian Languages.

Until now, out of 22 scheduled Indian languages, work on 15 languages have been completed which cover most of the major languages and the remaining 7 languages will be taken up after successful test and launch of the 15 languages. With the maturity of the policy it is time to involve the implementers of the project: the Registrars, Sub-Registrars and Industry at large and make them aware of the major issues underlying the allocation of Internationalized Domain Names in Indian Languages and obtain useful feedback from them.

A large number of issues need to be deliberated upon and discussed. Given the complexity of Indian writing systems, safeguards have to be introduced to ensure that the common man is secure as far as possible from pharming and spoofing attacks. The syllabic structure of Indian languages, Variant Tables, restriction rules are some of the major focal areas of IDN, which have been created and these along with the IDN implementation policy, will now be published on the DIT and C-DAC websites for seeking views and comments from all stakeholders, before the roll out of Domain Names in Indian Languages or IDN's in India by June 2010.

It has therefore, been decided to organize a series of Awareness raising National Workshops on IDN. The first workshop was held at Pune, will now be followed by workshops at three major cyber-cities: Hyderabad, Kolkata & Punjab around November 2009, December 2009 and January 2010, respectively. The main aim of these workshops is to provide a platform to all major players in this initiative to be aware of the problems and perspectives of IDN and to provide useful feedback for finalizing the policy which will then be implemented. The culmination of these discussions would be an International Conference to be held at Delhi in February 2010.

The workshop is an effort of the DIT, Govt. of India, with the support of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), the Internet Registry of India designated register .IN domain names and IDN .IN domain names to enable the availability of domain names in English and Indian languages.

A detailed programme of the first of the four workshops is provided below.

Registration		09.30 to 10.00 am
Presentation of bouquets to dignitaries on the Dais	Dr. N. Sarat Chandra Babu, Director, C-DAC, Hyderabad	
Welcome Speech	Dr. N. Sarat Chandra Babu, Director, C-DAC, Hyderabad	
C-DAC's activities in the area of Technology Development for Indian languages	Shri. Rajan T. Joseph, Director General, C-DAC	
DIT, Government of India's initiatives for Internet proliferation	Shri. N. Ravi Shanker, Joint Secretary, DIT & CEO NIXI, Delhi	
Overview of the IDN Challenges and perspectives	Dr. Govind, Sr. Director, DIT, Delhi	
Tea break		
SESSION I : IDN - Challenges and Perspectives		
"Domain Names - Impact on our Present & Future"	Smt. Tulika Pandey, Addl. Director, DIT Delhi	
Report on the IDN Project: Milestones and Achievements	Shri. Mahesh Kulkarni Programme Co-ordinator & Head GIST, C-DAC Pune	
IDN in Indian Languages - Registry and Industry perspective	1. Industry Representative - 1 Industry Representative - 2 2. Registrar - 1 Registrar - 2	
Overview of IDN Policy	Dr. Raiomond Doctor, Consultant, C-DAC, GIST R&D, Pune	
Lunch Break		
SESSION II: TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND FEEDBACK SESSION		
ABNF details; Presentation of Variant Tables for Different Languages, IDN Observations on various browsers	Ms. Neha Gupta, Mr. Akshat Joshi & Ms. Neha Aphale, C-DAC, GIST R&D, Pune	
Demonstration and hands-on session	Ms. Neha Gupta, Mr. Akshat Joshi & Ms. Neha Aphale, C-DAC, GIST R&D, Pune	
Feedback Session	Panelists - Shri. Rajan T. Joseph, Shri. N. Ravi Shanker, Dr. Govind, Smt. Tulika Pandey, Shri. Mahesh Kulkarni	
Vote of Thanks	Shri. Mahesh Kulkarni Programme Co-ordinator & Head GIST, C-DAC Pune	

