

.in registrations to cross 4 lakh mark by December

OUR ECONOMY BUREAU
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The .in domain name registrations, which was opened for the public from February 16, have topped 75,000 and may cross 4,00,000 registrations by the end of 2005.

Addressing mediapersons here on Monday, Amitabh Singhal, acting chief executive officer, National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), said the registrations have been phenomenal, considering the fact that in the last 10 years, only 7,000 .in domain names had

been registered. "The response to the domain name has been very good. We expect to cross 2,00,000 registrations over the next six months. The entire process of registration is online and has exceeded expectation of time to register from 24 hours to a few minutes," he said.

The cost of registration of the .In domain name was anywhere between Rs 800 and Rs 900 for a year. "This is 30% to 40% cheaper than other countries like Japan where the cost is Rs 2,000," Mr Singhal said.

The 75,000 registrations



have been achieved by the 18 registrars accredited to the .In registry, created by NIXI,

which is promoted by the department of IT in association with the Internet Service

Providers Association of India. NIXI expects to add another 12 to 18 accredited registrars by the end of this month.

Mr Singhal said that NIXI, which has set four internet exchanges in the major metros, would try to route the internet traffic in India locally. "The cost of bandwidth was very high, prior to the setting up of the internet exchanges. Earlier, the internet traffic within India travelled across the globe before reaching its destination. But now with the setting up of the exchanges, the internet traffic

is routed locally. This, we hope would bring down the cost of bandwidth," he added.

Ram Mohan, chief operating officer and chief technical officer, Afilias Inc, USA, which is a technical partner for NIXI, said the security system for .In domain was very high, compared to other systems such as .Com or .Net. "The .In registry is protected from breakdowns through DDOS (Distributed Demand of Service Attack) system, which ensures that even in case of a global attack on internet, the .In domain will survive," he said. ♦