UTTARAN

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Desk of SIO

Devashish Chanda, Senior Director (IT) & State Informatics Officer, NIC West Bengal State Centre



For nearly five decades, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has served as the premier technology institution of the Government of India, standing firmly at the core of our nation's digital evolution. As a cornerstone execution pillar of the landmark Digital India Mission, NIC has consistently spearheaded the vision of a digitally empowered society and a knowledge-driven economy. By architecting, developing and deploying mission-critical eGovernance platforms across the length and breadth of the country, NIC has systematically bridged administrative divides, delivering efficient, transparent and seamless public services to citizens everywhere.

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eGovernance at Finance Department

Shri Randhir Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal



Governance at its core is about impact, touching lives, building trust, and ensuring that every effort serves the citizens we are privileged to work for. Behind every policy we draft, and every grant we release, lies an intricate digital machinery. For years, the National Informatics Centre has been the silent, dedicated heart, powering this machinery across West Bengal.

Our journey together is far more than a professional partnership; it is a shared mission rooted in deep trust and mutual respect. Systems like WBJIT and SNA SPARSH have transformed how funds flow to the grassroots. Initiative like the UPMS has brought clarity and ease to complex processes. Most recently, NIC's robust Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) integrations have empowered our flagship Annapurna Yojana, enabling seamless, secure monthly assistance of ₹3,000 directly to eligible female residents aged 25 to 60.

Whenever we faced complex financial hurdles, team NIC stood shoulder to shoulder with us, working late hours, solving intricate problems, and constantly innovating. Technology, on its own, is just code and infrastructure. It is the dedication, empathy, and passion of the people behind it that give it real meaning. That is the true spirit NIC brings to the Finance Department every single day.

As 'Uttaran' captures these remarkable milestones, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every team member at NIC. Thank you for your tireless efforts, your warm camaraderie, and your steadfast commitment to our state. Together, we are not just building digital platforms, we are shaping a brighter, more responsive future for West Bengal.

News & Events

Visit of the DG NIC to NIC WBSC



The Director General, NIC, Shri Priyank Bharti, IAS, accompanied by DDGs Shri V. T. V. Ramana and Shri Ashish Vikram Asthana visited NIC West Bengal State Centre on 23 June 2026 and inaugurated the newly established NIC Development Centre at Mayukh Bhawan, Salt Lake City. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Shri Shubhanjan Das, IAS, IT Secretary, Government of West Bengal, and other senior officials.

The DG along with DDGs, SIO and senior officials visited the iNOC and Mini Data Centre at Nizam Palace, and reviewed the infrastructure and AI operational setup. The visit concluded on a memorable note, marking an important milestone in strengthening NIC's development capabilities in West Bengal.

Launch of FLDC-APY

Family Level Data Collection Portal for Annapurna Yojana was launched successfully for citizen access on 5th June 2026, by Additional Chief Secretary of Finance Department, Government of West Bengal, in presence of Special Secretary, Finance Department and State Informatics Officer (SIO), ASIO (State), and Joint Director (IT) from National Informatics Centre. Considering the stringent timelines for this activity, this launch marked a milestone and was well appreciated.



Desk of SIO contd.

In West Bengal, NIC shares a long and cherished legacy of strategic partnership with the State Government. Over the years, this collaboration has enabled transformative digital interventions across diverse governance sectors. Flagship applications such as VAHAN and SARATHI have digitized transport services, while land records digitization has enhanced accessibility and security. Election Manpower Management systems have streamlined election administration, and WBJIT and UPMS have strengthened financial and project management. In social welfare, the digital architecture powering the Annapurna Yojana has supported secure, direct financial empowerment for women.

Behind these achievements stand the valued professionals of NIC West Bengal. Their technical prowess, grit and commitment ensure that critical state infrastructure remains resilient, accessible and secure. Their dedication to addressing complex operational challenges and their spirit of teamwork remain the foundation of our organizational success.

Looking ahead, NIC West Bengal is proactively embracing the next frontier of digital innovation through emerging domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain and DevSecOps. We take pride in hosting the Centre of Excellence in AI, which has delivered innovative solutions including AI-powered Face Recognition Attendance, crowd headcount analysis, plant disease detection and conversational chatbots for Ease of Doing Business.

As Uttaran captures our collective accomplishments and milestones, I express my deepest gratitude to our team, departmental partners and stakeholders. Together, we remain committed to harnessing emerging technologies, driving operational excellence and shaping a digitally empowered and progressive future for West Bengal.

Highlight

Annapurna Yojana

The Annapurna Yojana marks a landmark milestone in women's welfare and financial empowerment, delivering ₹3,000 monthly Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) to eligible female residents aged 25 to 60 across West Bengal. Behind this massive social transformation lies an advanced technological foundation engineered by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

To deploy this mission-critical application in record time, NIC officers demonstrated immense dedication and grit. They architected a high-availability deployment framework across multiple availability zones, incorporating multi-tier load balancing, active-standby primary database replication, central Redis session caching, RabbitMQ clustering and Kafka streaming engines to handle immense transactional volumes with complete fault tolerance.

The system introduces an innovative hybrid technology stack, combining PHP-Laravel for departmental administrative operations with Spring Boot and Angular for secure, high-performance citizen access. Driven by a configurable, rule-based decision support system, the portal automates complex eligibility verification and streamlines the delivery

News & Events

Visit of State Coordinator to NIC WBSC

DDG and State Coordinator, West Bengal, Shri Joydeep Shome, visited NIC West Bengal State Centre, Kolkata, on 21 July 2026. Accompanied by SIO West Bengal Shri Devashish Chanda, ASIOs and senior officials, he visited the iNOC, Mini DC and Software Development Centre at Mayukh Bhawan.



PM Interaction under Viksit Vibrant Village Program

During the virtual interaction of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, under the Viksit Vibrant Village Programme, students from Kolkata and six other districts of West Bengal have participated through NIC VC studios on 26 July 2026.



NIC West Bengal Showcases Digital Initiatives at Exhibition

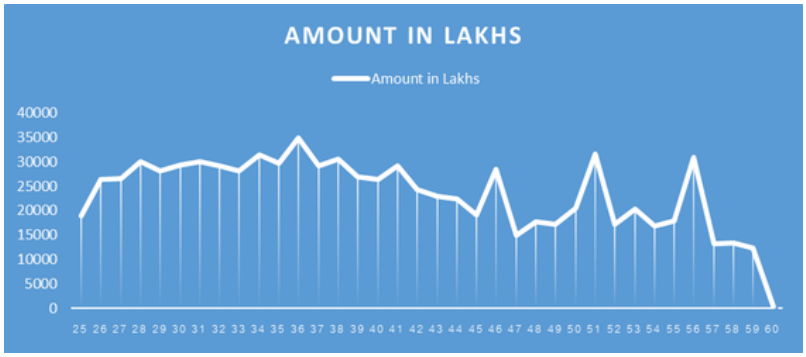


NIC West Bengal participated in the 12th Indian National Exhibition-cum-Fair 2026, held from 5th to 8th August at Patuli, Kolkata, organised by BHRDF. NIC showcased its major eGovernance initiatives, ICT infrastructure and activities through banners, presentations and an open quiz. The NIC pavilion attracted students, teachers and other visitors. The Hon'ble MP and MLA also visited the stall and appreciated NIC's contribution to digital governance. NIC was felicitated with a memento and certificate on the concluding day.

NIC West Bengal Celebrates 80th Independence Day

NIC West Bengal celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour at the West Bengal State Centre. The programme featured the unfurling of the National Flag by the SIO, rendition of Vande Mataram and the National Anthem followed by inspiring address by the SIO to the gathering.





Age-wise fund distributions

Annapurna Yojana contd..

of benefits.

The payment statistics demonstrate a profound societal impact. Disbursing over ₹8,460 crore between June and August 2026, the scheme spans all age brackets from 25 to 60 years. Crucially, it bridges gaps between rural and urban populations, delivering ₹7,432 crore to rural blocks and ₹1,027 crore to municipal regions across every district. Through relentless technical mastery, NIC officers have transformed digital governance into a vital engine of economic dignity statewide.

Saikat Narayan Bhattacharjya, Scientist-D

TechSpace

Microservices

Why : Modern government financial systems process large transaction volumes, integrate with multiple internal and external platforms, maintain stringent security and audit requirements, and continuously evolve with policy and operational changes. Traditional monolithic applications become increasingly difficult to maintain and scale as functionality grows. Changes in one module may require testing and deployment of the entire application, increasing dependencies and release risks.

Microservices architecture addresses these challenges by decomposing applications into smaller, independently manageable services aligned with specific business capabilities. It enables independent development, deployment and scaling, better fault isolation, faster releases and improved resilience. High-volume components can therefore be scaled independently without unnecessarily scaling the entire application.

Microservices

What : Microservices architecture is an approach where an application is developed as a collection of loosely coupled independently deployable services. Each service performs a defined business function and communicates through standardized APIs or asynchronous messaging.

REST APIs support synchronous operations requiring immediate responses, while message brokers such as RabbitMQ enable asynchronous, event-driven processing. A production-grade ecosystem typically incorporates an API Gateway, centralized Identity and Access Management, service-specific databases or schemas, centralized logging, monitoring, CI/CD and containerization.

For financial systems, patterns including transactional outbox, idempotent processing, retries, dead-letter queues and compensating transactions improve reliability and prevent transaction loss or duplication.

Case Study : West Bengal Just In Time Payment System

West Bengal Just In Time Payment System (WBJIT) is a mission-critical government financial platform supporting fund distribution, billing, treasury processing, payment, reconciliation and accounting. It integrates with external systems including RBI, NPCI, WB IFMS 2.0 and various Central Ministry portals.

WBJIT adopts microservices by separating business capabilities into services including SSO/User Management, Master Data Management, Allotment, Sanction, Billing, Treasury Processing, FTO Management, Beneficiary Management, Payment, Reconciliation, Accounting, Notification, Document Management and Audit Logging.

Billing, FTO and Payment services experience higher workloads during peak financial periods and can be scaled independently.

Krishnendu Das, Scientist-D

Special Article

Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act – What, Why, When & How

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act) is India's comprehensive law governing the processing of digital personal data. The DPDP Rules, 2025, notified on 13 November 2025, operationalize the Act by defining practical compliance requirements. Together, they apply to personal data collected digitally or converted into digital form.

Why DPDP?

With personal data being processed extensively across banking, healthcare, telecom, e-commerce and public services, the DPDP framework aims to build trust in the digital economy, prevent misuse of personal data, standardize consent and retention practices, strengthen security safeguards and provide clear rights to citizens (Data Principals).

What does it require?

The core principles can be remembered through CPRDG:

- Consent : Obtain valid, informed and unambiguous consent and enable easy withdrawal.
- Purpose Limitation : Collect and process data only for a specified purpose and retain it only as required.
- Rights of Data Principals : Enable rights including information, access, correction, erasure, withdrawal of consent and grievance redressal.
- Data Security : Protect data at rest and in transit, restrict access, maintain logs and report breaches as required.
- Grievance Redressal : Provide an accessible channel, defined timelines and effective resolution mechanisms.



What It Means for e-Governance:

Government departments and public-sector portals are 'Data Fiduciaries' when collecting citizen data for services, schemes, licences and grievances. Compliance must therefore be embedded in system architecture. Departments should map citizen data, implement role-based access, encryption and logging, define retention and secure deletion schedules, and document data sharing with vendors. Citizen-facing portals should provide clear privacy notices, collect only necessary data, use secure infrastructure, conduct periodic VAPT and display grievance-redressal contacts.

Key Roles under the Law :

Data Principal : The individual whose personal data is collected

Data Fiduciary : The organisation (or government body)

Data Processor : Agency that processes data

Significant Data Fiduciary (SDF) : Carries extra duties

Consent Manager : Lets a Data Principal give, manage, and withdraw consent in one place

Special Article cont..

Compliance Matters:

The Act provides for financial penalties for non-compliance, with significant penalties for failures relating to security safeguards, breach notification, children's data and SDF obligations.

Under the DPDP framework, compliance is not achieved through policies alone it must be embedded in the system architecture.

Building privacy and security practices early into systems can help avoid costly rework and strengthen citizen trust.

Penalties for Non-Compliance:

Failure to take reasonable security safeguards, leading to a breach : ₹250 crore

Failure to notify the Board/ affected persons of a breach : ₹200 crore

Non-compliance with obligations for children's data : ₹200 crore

SDF failing additional obligations (DPIA, audit, etc.) :₹150 crore

Any other non-compliance not separately listed : ₹50 crore

Data Principal misusing rights or giving false information: ₹10,000

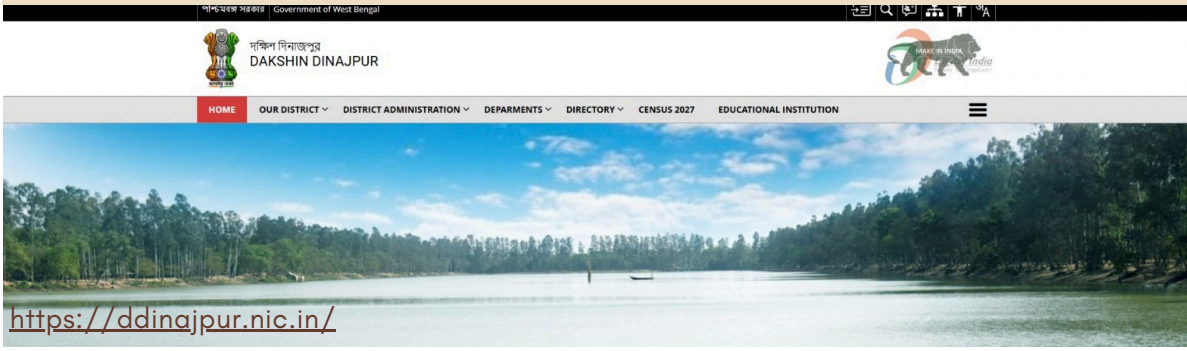
All penalty amounts go to the Consolidated Fund of India, not to the affected individuals. Appeals against a Board order lies with the Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) within 60 day.

Source : NIC, CDAC, and other Published Web documents

Ashis Mukherjee, Scientist-F & ASIO

District at a Glance

Dakshin Dinajpur



https://ddinajpur.nic.in/

Message from the DM

SH. BALASUBRAMANIAN T, IAS
Collector & District Magistrate



"UTTARAN" the quarterly newsletter, published by NIC West Bengal is a notable initiative towards highlighting the ICT activities in the State and Districts.

District Administration's ever expanding job and responsibilities towards citizens of the district get boosted by eGovernance. Use of various ICT technologies, not only increase ease of service delivery but also transparency in real time.

NIC Dakshin Dinajpur District centre plays a pivotal role in this regard. NIC Dakshin Dinajpur is providing all kinds of active support in this regard by extending their services through capacity building, promoting and implementing software solutions, ICT infrastructure, video conferencing and consultation to the Dakshin Dinajpur District Administration. I sincerely appreciate the efforts put in by the NIC District Centre officials.

I congratulate and wish success to the entire NIC team in their new initiative and future endeavors."

Dakshin Dinajpur, situated in northern part of West Bengal with 252 km of international border with Bangladesh, is a district rich in history and culture. It was formed in 1992 following the bifurcation of West Dinajpur. The district administration focuses on grassroots engagement, effective public service delivery and grievance redressal. The district portal provides information on its history, geography, administration, tourism and important contacts.

Administrative Setup:

Balurghat being the district headquarters, the district comprises 2 subdivisions, Balurghat Sadar and Gangarampur, 8 Blocks, 3 Municipalities and 64 Gram Panchayats.

ICT Initiatives:

Since its inception, NIC Dakshin Dinajpur has been supporting the District Administration through various ICT initiatives and promoting cloud-based solutions for improved eGovernance.

Major National & State Projects:

The district has implemented key e-Governance projects including eOffice, e-Procurement, e-Court, eProsecution under ICJS, GeM, NDAL & ALIS, PMAY-G, National Citizenship Portal, Email and Video Conferencing Services. Other initiatives include iRAD and WBEMMS. State-level projects such as Annapurna Yojana, OSCAR, Bhumi and Bhuchitra have also been implemented.

NIC District Centre:

The bilingual district portal, ddinajpur.nic.in, has been migrated to the S3WaaS platform in compliance with GIGW and serves as a single source of information on government programmes, orders, tenders, notices and recruitment. NIC Dakshin Dinajpur has also provided ICT support for WBLA 2026 and other Government of India events. The District Centre is connected through a 1 Gbps NICNET link with failover connectivity, ensuring reliable ICT services to the District Administration.

Ariket Dutta, Scientist-D & DIO, Dakshin Dinajpur

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