

Hon'ble PM Launched Subhadra Yojana in Odisha

On 17th September, 2024 Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Subhadra Scheme, the flagship initiative of the Government of Odisha, during a grand event at Janta Maidan in Bhubaneswar. The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Mohan Majhi, Hon'ble Governor Shri Raghubar Das, Hon'ble Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and other esteemed ministers from the Government of Odisha.

The Videoconferencing Division of NIC provided 24/7 support for testing outdoor links, while NIC Headquarters facilitated webcasting for the event. Shri S.P. Dash, Senior Director (IT), and Shri Sanjay Kr. Das, Senior Director (IT), along with their team, ensured seamless technical support for the Prime Minister's Office setup at the venue.

During the event, the Hon'ble PM laid the foundation stone for Railway Projects worth over ₹2,800 crores, aimed at enhancing railway infrastructure of Odisha & promoting regional growth and connectivity. He also initiated National Highway Projects valued at more than ₹1,000 crores.



Field Exposure for Newly joined NICians to Jagatsinghpur District

Real-world experience is an important component of any induction training program. With this objective, the group of 14 newly joined officers of NIC, Odisha visited Jagatsinghpur District on 4th September, 2024. DIO, Jagatsinghpur and his team explained the hierarchy of District Administration, the process and procedures being followed and the roles and responsibilities of NIC in different segments of the Administration. The officers had a fruitful interaction with the Collector & District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, Sub-collectors and other senior officials of the District.

The DIO gave a detailed presentation on various initiatives of NIC in the district. The Collector welcomed the Officers and congratulated NIC for their praiseworthy efforts. He motivated the new NIC officers for their upcoming assignments in the Districts. 'District Informatics' – a brochure of the District was released by the dignitaries on this occasion. The officers also visited Paradeep Port to get an exposure of various operational activities there and the functioning of IVFRT, GePNIC, etc.



PMFME beneficiaries virtually joined 'World Food India 2024'

'World Food India 2024', organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, was inaugurated on 19th September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It was inaugurated jointly by Shri Pralhad Joshi, Hon'ble Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Minister of Food Processing Industries & Shri Ravneet Singh Bittu, Hon'ble Minister of State, Food Processing Industries & Railways.

To facilitate passive participation, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, organized a virtual conference at the VCR hall of NIC, Bhubaneswar for PMFME beneficiaries from Odisha. More than 50 PMFME beneficiaries of Odisha related to seed capital and credit linked subsidy witnessed the inaugural session.

On this occasion, food processing units at 67 locations under PLISFPI and PMKSY schemes with total investments of Rs 5,135 crores were inaugurated & Credit linked support was provided to 25,000 beneficiaries for micro projects worth Rs 2,351 crores under PMFME scheme and Rs 245 crores seed capital sanctioned to 70,000 SHG members.



Visit of Shri Rajiv Rathi, DDG & State Coordinator, NIC, Odisha to Bhubaneswar

On 13th September 2024, Shri Rajiv Rathi, DDG & State Coordinator for Odisha, along with Ms. Rachna Srivatsav, DDG, and other senior officials from NIC Headquarters, visited Electronics & IT Dept., Government of Odisha, to review the progress and challenges of the 'Subhadra Yojana', a flagship project of the Odisha government. They met Principal Secretary, E&IT, Odisha to discuss various ongoing projects in the state.

At a function held at OSC, they interacted with the newly appointed NICians, offering them guidance and motivation for their upcoming roles. The State Coordinator interacted with the officers to review the projects and activities conducted in the past six months. On this occasion, the September 2024 edition of the newsletter of NIC Odisha, "The Ascender" was released. Additionally, Ms. Rachna Srivatsav, DDG & HoG (e-Office), held discussion with the Centre for Modernising Government Initiatives (CMGI) team in Odisha regarding the successful migration to e-Office 7.X and outlined a future roadmap for rolling out the application at district level.



Seminar on "Cyber Security from the Hacker's Perspective"

On 10th September 2024, BSNL Odisha Circle hosted a seminar titled "Cyber Security from the Hacker's Perspective" for creating awareness on cyber security as a capacity building program during the three months activity campaign of Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW), 2024.

The seminar was attended by over 100 officers both physically and virtually from the Vigilance Heads of other circles under GM(Vigilance), West Bengal Telecom Circle, Kolkata (CTD, Kolkata, Sikim, Assam, Core NW Tx East, Core NW-NER, NE-2, NE-1) and BA/OA Heads of Odisha circle.

Shri Niladri Bihari Mohanty, Joint Director (IT), NIC Odisha, joining as the distinguished speaker, delivered an in-depth analysis of the tactics used by hackers to exploit vulnerabilities in the digital ecosystem. He described on the key topics such as TOR, the Onion Protocol, Doxing, SSL attacks, Trust vs. Risk, and Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) Poisoning regarding the use of technique by cybercriminals. Shri Mohanty also explored emerging threat vectors driven by AI and Machine Learning, providing insights into future cyber risks.

Shri R. N. Palai, I.T.S., CGM, BSNL Odisha Circle chaired the seminar and expressed his gratitude to NIC for delivering such an insightful seminar aimed at enhancing participants' ability to safeguard digital assets. At the outset of the seminar, Sri K.C.Pati, DGM (Vigilance), Odisha circle highlighted the gravity of cybersecurity awareness amongst the staff during his welcome address.



Broadcasting

Panel Discussion on Cybersecurity at Akashvani, Cuttack

All India Radio, Cuttack, hosted an insightful panel discussion on cybersecurity in the context of "Developing India". The event was featured by Smt. Sujata Das, Sr. Director (IT), Smt. Sasmita Sabat (Director-IT), and Shri Niladri Bihari Mohanty (Jt. Director-IT) from the National Informatics Centre, Odisha State Centre.

The discussion covered a range of critical issues, including the role of artificial intelligence in cybercrime, the implications of the new DPDP Act, responsible social media usage, and the growing threat of ransomware. These conversations played a vital role in raising community awareness about these pressing topics.



eTransport - 2024 Zonal Workshop Held in Pune, Maharashtra

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and NIC organized the Zonal Transport Workshop, eTRANS-2024, on 12th & 13th September, 2024 in Pune. This event brought together representatives from Maharashtra and 11 other states and union territories, including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar, and Puducherry.

The workshop aimed to facilitate discussions among stakeholders, highlight new initiatives under the eTransport Project, raise awareness of innovative offerings, and gather feedback from end users through focused discussions.

The inaugural session featured remarks from the Secretary of MoRTH. Shri Prasant Kumar Nayak, Senior Director (IT) and Transport Project Coordinator of NIC, Odisha, was invited to present the eDetection application as part of the new initiatives. He showcased both the eDetection application and the EV Subsidy Portal, distributing a leaflet on eDetection to participants. His presentation was well-recognized, with several states expressing interest in implementing eDetection in their regions.



Celebration of Vishwakarma Puja at NIC State & District Centres



Publication



Release of eDetection brochure



eDetection – the Digital Eye on MV Violators



Release of District Informatics (Jagatsinghpur)



District Informatics (Jagatsinghpur) – Embodying the spirit of Digital India

हिंदी पखवाड़ा समारोह - 2024

राजभाषा हिंदी के प्रयोग को बढ़ाने तथा राजभाषा नीति के कार्यान्वयन के प्रति अनुकूल वातावरण बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय सूचना-विज्ञान केन्द्र, भुवनेश्वर में हिंदी पखवाड़ा का आयोजन 14 सितम्बर 2024 से 28 सितम्बर 2024 तक किया गया।

17 सितम्बर को मुख्यालय में उद्घाटन के अवसर पर आयोजित हिंदी कार्यशाला में ओडिशा विधानसभा के संयुक्त सचिव श्री सतीश मिश्रा ने मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में भाग लिया और हिंदी भाषा के महत्व और संविधान में इसे दिए गए विशेष दर्जे पर विस्तार से चर्चा की। इस शुभ अवसर पर एन. आई. सी. ओडिशा की मासिक पत्रिका 'द एसेंडर' के सितंबर संस्करण का उन्मोचन किया गया।

राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति की उपाध्यक्षा श्रीमती सुजाता दास ने मेमोरी-आधारित ई-टूल्स 'कंठस्थ 2.0' की मदद से कैसे अनुवाद आसानी से किया जा सकता है बताया।

हिंदी पखवाड़े के तहत कई प्रतियोगिताएं जैसे, हिंदी श्रुत टाइपिंग, पत्रलेखन एवं हिन्दी - अंग्रेजी अनुवाद, चित्र आधारित निबंध (हिन्दी भाषी एवं हिंदीतर भाषियों के लिए), आशु भाषण एवं हिंदी कवितावृत्ति प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया।

पखवाड़े का समापन समारोह के शुभ अवसर पर डी.एम (DM) स्कूल के प्रिन्सिपल डॉ. अखिलेश्वर मिश्र बतौर सम्माननीय अतिथि रूप में उपस्थित थे। समारोह में सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम भी रखा गया था, जिसमें गाना, कविता-पाठ, चुटकुले, शायरी, आदि में कई पदाधिकारियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम को और मनोरम एवं आकर्षक बनाने के लिए अंत में दो लघु हास्य नाटक मंचस्थ किया गया। उप महानिदेशक एवं राज्य सूचना-विज्ञान अधिकारी ने सभी प्रतिभागियों का अभिनंदन किया तथा विजयी प्रतिभागियों को बधाई देते हुए प्रमाण पत्र के साथ सम्मानित किया।

सदस्य सचिव डॉ. अलका प्रधान ने पूरे पखवाड़े का समन्वयन किया एवं इस पखवाड़ा के सफल आयोजन में सहयोग के लिए सभी का आभार व्यक्त किया। पूरे समारोह के दौरान सभी जिलाधिकारी VC के माध्यम से जुड़े रहे।





FAREWELL

Our sincere tribute and honour to **Shri Hara Prasad Das, Scientist-E (Director(IT))**, on the eve of his attaining superannuation and for his years of dedicated & exemplary services.

Observation of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2024

The “Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign 2024” was held at NIC, Odisha, State center and various district centers, from 17th September,2024 to 2nd October 2024. This year, the campaign focused on three main pillars of activities:

1. Swachhta Lakshit Ekayi (Swachhta through Shramdaan)
2. Swachhta ki Bhagidari
3. Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs

The campaign kicked off on 17th September,2024 with a Swachhta pledge, administered by the SIO, Odisha and attended by all officers. Following this, the officers engaged in cleaning activities according to a pre-defined schedule on the subsequent working days.

To promote swachhta awareness, a “Best out of Waste” competition was organized for school children, with 46 students participating enthusiastically. The innovative products created by the children using waste materials were impressive, and they received certificates and tokens of appreciation for their efforts. Additionally, “Creative Writing” and “Pick & Speak” competitions on swachhta were held for officers, with awards given for the best submissions.

On 30th September 2024, Safai Mitras were honored with Swachhta Kits in recognition of their dedicated efforts to maintain cleanliness in the workplace. As part of “Swachhta ki Bhagidari”, a special cleaning campaign took place at Shri Lingraj Temple in Old Town, Bhubaneswar, on 2nd October, 2024.





Brain-Computer Interfaces: Transforming Communication and Control

Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) are innovative technologies that enable direct communication between the brain and external devices. By interpreting neural signals, BCIs allow users to control computers, prosthetics, and machinery with their thoughts. Once deemed science fiction, BCIs are now a reality, offering the potential to enhance the lives of individuals with severe disabilities and revolutionize human-computer interaction.

How BCIs Work?

BCIs operate through several key steps:

- **Signal Acquisition:** This initial phase involves capturing brain activity using methods such as:
 - **Electroencephalography (EEG):** Non-invasive sensors placed on the scalp detect electrical activity.
 - **Intracranial Implants:** Invasive electrodes placed directly in the brain for higher-resolution data.
- **Signal Processing:** Raw brain signals are processed to filter out noise and enhance clarity, with algorithms translating neural patterns into meaningful commands.
- **Feature Extraction:** Specific characteristics of the processed signals are identified to represent the user's intent.
- **Output Mechanisms:** Interpreted signals are sent to external devices, enabling actions.



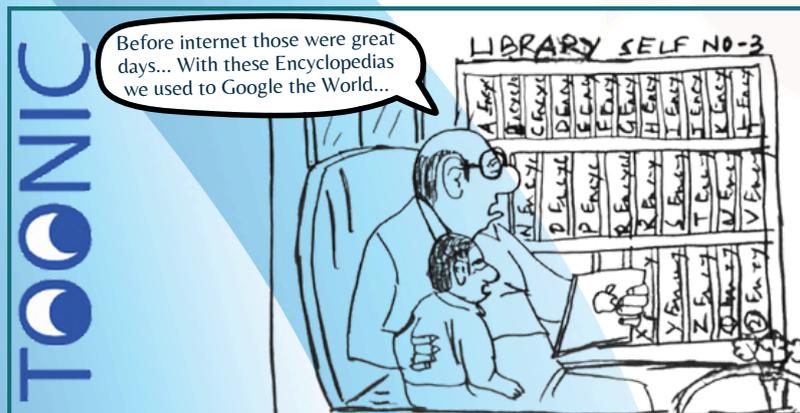
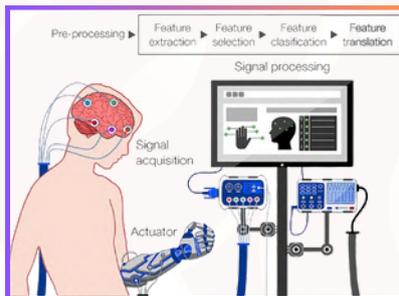
Applications of BCIs

- **Assistive Technologies:** BCIs significantly benefit individuals with disabilities, enabling paralyzed users to operate robotic limbs or communicate through text-based systems, enhancing independence.
- **Neuro rehabilitation:** BCIs are being explored for stroke recovery, helping patients regain motor functions through targeted training.

Challenges and Considerations:

- **Signal Noise:** Interference can hinder accurate interpretation.
- **User Variability:** Individual differences may affect system performance.

As BCIs continue to develop, they open up new possibilities for communication and control, empowering users in unprecedented ways. The evolution of BCIs represents a significant leap forward in both neuroscience and technology, paving the way for a more inclusive and interconnected future.



NIC Odisha observed ZERO PENDENCY Day

NIC Odisha celebrated ZERO PENDENCY DAY on September 30, 2024, in preparation for the half-yearly closing for the fiscal year 2024-2025. A meeting was held with all officers and administrative staff to mark the occasion. SIO commended the team for their collaborative efforts under the leadership of Shri Managobinda Singh, Deputy Director & DDO, which led to the timely clearance of financial claims, vendor payments, and bills for NIC officers.

The contributions from the PAO, NIC HQ, Budget Planning Section, Audit Section, and all other administrative departments at NIC HQ were instrumental in achieving this milestone. As of September 30, 2024, pension documents for ten retirees have been processed. To honor their hard work, all members of the Administration & Accounts Section were presented with tokens of appreciation.



IT by Tea



Data Virtualization: A Paradigm Shift in Cloud Computing

Data virtualization revolutionizes the ETL process by enabling real-time access to integrated data from multiple sources without the need for physical movement.

This innovation not only reduces storage requirements but also accelerates data workflows, making it especially beneficial in big data environments where traditional ETL methods can be slow and resource-intensive. By enhancing agility, data virtualization allows organizations to make quicker, data-driven decisions.

Myth: Data Virtualization Struggles with Big Data

A common misconception is that data virtualization falters with the high volumes and complexities of big data, leading to inefficiencies in scaling and real-time responses.

Truth:

This myth arises from the belief that virtualizing big data necessitates significant data movement, resulting in slow query performance and excessive resource use. In contrast, modern data virtualization tools are specifically designed to manage big data efficiently. They utilize advanced techniques such as distributed query optimization, pushdown processing, and caching to minimize data movement, ensuring high performance even with large datasets. Instead of transferring entire datasets, these tools query and retrieve only the necessary data. Furthermore, they adeptly integrate both structured and unstructured data, making them well-suited for big data architectures. In expansive data environments, virtualization decreases the need for physical data copies, leading to cost savings and improved processing times.