

Hearty Welcome



Shri Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, MeitY and CEO, India A1 Mission, assumed charge as the Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC), on 21st April, 2025.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha launched e-Panchayat Sabha for Panchayat Samiti

e-Panchayat Sabha for Panchayat Samiti, designed & developed by NIC, Odisha State Centre, Bhubaneswar is a digital workflow-based meeting process, which facilitates strengthening the process of conducting meetings at the Panchayat Samiti level by providing a digital interface. The application ensures better governance through effective monitoring and implementation of development schemes and social welfare measures.

This application was launched by Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha on 24th April, 2025 at Talabania, Puri on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Diwas.

The application facilitates digital empowerment through better intimation mechanism, record keeping, data extraction with intra & inter-departmental convergence of different schemes as per the agenda of the meetings, system generated notice with agenda & minutes of meeting (MoM), attendance mechanism and information sharing. These lead to improved transparency, accountability and responsiveness in various schemes and activities of the Panchayat Samiti. This bilingual application incorporates complete flow of meeting execution process - from initiation of meeting to communication of minutes of meetings to the participants through Sandes Mobile App.



Welcome



Hearty Welcome to all newly joined Scientific Officer/Engineer-SB to NIC Odisha State Centre

15th Rozgar Mela: Over 51,000 Appointment letters were distributed by Hon'ble Prime Minister

As part of the continued focus of the Government on employment generation, the 15th Rozgar Mela was held on 26th April 2025 across 47 locations nationwide. Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the event via video conferencing and distributed over 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited candidates for various Central Government Ministries and Departments.

The selected candidates may take up roles in key departments including the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Ministry of Railways, Department of Higher Education, and Ministry of Labour & Employment, among others.

In Odisha, the event took place at CSIR-Institute of Minerals & Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar, where Shri Harsh Malhotra, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, personally handed over appointment letters to 258 newly selected candidates. NIC, Odisha provided technical support for the seamless execution of the outdoor video conferencing setup.



NITI Aayog Organised Regional workshop on NPO Darpan

NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), manages the NPO Darpan portal—a centralized platform where Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) can register and obtain a Unique Identity Number. Registration on this portal is mandatory for NPOs seeking grants from Central Government Ministries and Departments.

The NPO Darpan Dashboard offers detailed insights into registered organizations through various search parameters. Integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), the dashboard also provides information on grants disbursed by Central Ministries to NPOs. This data can be utilized by States and Union Territories for informed decision-making in matters related to NPOs.

To promote effective usage of the portal and dashboard, NITI Aayog organized a Regional Workshop on 25th April, 2025 in Bhubaneswar. The workshop aimed to offer hands-on training on features and functionalities of the platform. Participants included senior officials from 12 State Governments involved with the Darpan Portal, State Informatics Officers (NIC), State PFMS Directorates, and officials from NPO/NGO registration authorities.





SATHI Expands to 31 States, Bridging South and Northeast India Through Digital Seed Certification

On 19th March, 2025 the SATHI (Seed Authentication, Traceability, and Holistic Inventory) team from NIC, Odisha conducted training program in Kerala, making it the 25th state to join the national platform aimed at digitizing seed production and certification. Participants included officials from Agriculture Departments, Seed Corporations, Certification Agencies, Seed Testing Labs (STLs), and IT teams. The hands-on training covered modules such as Seed Grower Registration, Field Inspection, Sampling, STL, and Packing, followed by online assessments. A phased rollout starting with the Seed Grower Registration module was advised for smoother implementation.

Building on this momentum, SATHI has now shifted its focus to the North Eastern states, where seed production is still emerging. In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, a hybrid operational model has been launched linking Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland with Assam and Mizoram, Manipur with Tripura, for shared operations as well as capacity building.

NIC, Odisha teams conducted training sessions in Assam for officers from Arunachal Pradesh (on 10th April, 2025) and Nagaland and Meghalaya (on 21st April, 2025). Shri Ajeet Kumar Sahu, I.A.S., Joint Secretary (Seed), attended the session and commended the efforts. With this, SATHI now has a presence in 31 states, symbolizing a major step in nationwide digital integration of seed systems.



State-Level Workshop on e-Governance Standards and Guidelines

A two-day State-Level Awareness Workshop on e-Governance Standards and Guidelines was organized by C-DAC and STQC under MeitY in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 11th to 12th April, 2025. The workshop was aimed at a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including developers, implementers, service and solution providers from government bodies, industry, R&D institutions, start-ups, academia, and other organizations involved in e-Governance applications and services.

The DDG & SIO, Odisha attended the event as Guest of Honour. In his address, he underscored the significance of adopting standards to enhance interoperability and efficiency in digital governance. He highlighted key initiatives such as Single Sign-On (Parichay), Enterprise Architecture (IndEA 2.0), the Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM), and NAPIX (NIC API Exchange Platform), all contributing towards the vision of One Nation, One Application.

The workshop sessions covered a wide range of topics, including Digital Service Standards, the Open API Policy, Indian Accessibility Standards, Framework for e-Authentication, Digital Signature Standards, and Cyber Security Standards, fostering awareness and encouraging adoption of standardized practices across e-Governance projects.



National Workshop on SMART PDS: Advancing India's Public Distribution System

NIC organized a national workshop on SMART PDS at the Scope Complex in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by the Director General of NIC, in the distinguished presence of the Joint Secretaries from MeitY and Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) and others.

The workshop highlighted critical components of SMART PDS, such as grievance redressal mechanisms and the creation of a centralized data repository. It featured discussions on a range of digital innovations including Mera Ration App, Aadhaar Data Vault, ePoS, and the SCAN Application.

Shri Alok Tiwari, DDG and Head of Group (HoG), NIC, who led the workshop, emphasized that the implementation of SMART PDS would significantly improve the efficiency and transparency of the system. It aims to curb leakages and ensure timely delivery of food grains through Fair Price Shops. Smt. Sujata Das, Senior Director (IT), NIC, Odisha, participated in the workshop, representing Odisha as the State Coordinator for the implementation of SMART PDS in the state.



Study Tour of Hon'ble Speaker, Deputy Speaker and team of NCT of Delhi to Odisha Legislative Assembly

A delegation from the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, led by Shri Vijender Gupta, Hon'ble Speaker and Shri Mohan Singh Bisht, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker visited the Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA) in Bhubaneswar from 15th to 17th April, 2025. The study tour aimed to understand the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in Odisha as part of Delhi's plan to go paperless within 100 days.

The delegation included Shri Ranjeet Singh (IAS), Secretary, and other Committee officers from NCT, Delhi. They were warmly received by Smt. Surama Padhy, Hon'ble Speaker of OLA, and Shri Satyabrata Rout, IAS, Secretary, OLA, along with other officials.

During the visit, the team toured the Digital House, NeVA Cell, and NeVA Seva Kendra, and witnessed a live demonstration of the House control and e-book modules. Shri Ashok Rout, Joint Director (IT), NIC, Odisha, gave a detailed presentation on NeVA's implementation and addressed technical queries. The Delhi team expressed appreciation for the Odisha model and announced plans to adopt it, seeking continued technical support from NIC and the NeVA team in Odisha.





Virtual Training on eSakshya under ICJS for Odisha Users

A virtual training session on the eSakshya platform was held on 25th April, 2025, for State and District-level users and master trainers from Odisha. The eSakshya platform is a digital tool developed under the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) to support the secure recording and management of primary digital evidence. It aligns with the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and facilitates documentation of legal procedures such as Scene of Crime, Search and Seizure, Police Searches, Statement Recording, and Custody Orders.

The session was inaugurated by Shri Siba Prasad Dash, Senior Director (IT) and ICJS State Coordinator, NIC Odisha. Participants included representatives from District SP offices, CID-CB (CAW), SCRB (ICJS Nodal Agency), and the NIC Headquarters team led by Shri Deepak Kumar, Senior Director (IT).

A detailed presentation and live demonstration of the web and mobile applications were followed by an interactive Q&A. Mrs. Akanshya Roy, Inspector & ICJS Nodal Officer concluded the training by thanking all attendees for their participation and active engagement.



Capacity Building for Jalasathis on Jalamana Mobile App for Water Quality Monitoring

A comprehensive training programme on the Water Quality Data Surveillance & Monitoring System (Jalamana) mobile app was conducted for 818 Jalasathis across 115 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Odisha. The App developed for the Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) under the Housing & Urban Development Department, enables real-time monitoring of water quality at consumer points.

The training was conducted in five phases over nine sessions. An initial sensitization session was held at the PHEO Conference Hall in Bhubaneswar for 20 Jalasathis from 4 ULBs, along with PMU coordinators and engineers from PHEO and WATCO. The Director of Operations, WATCO, outlined the objectives and significance of the app with senior officials from PHEO and WATCO highlighting its role in promoting transparency and responsive action on water quality.

Technical features of the app were demonstrated by Shri Lalatendu Dash, Sr. Director (IT), NIC. Follow-up VC-based training covered 488 Jalasathis from 29 ULBs under WATCO and 330 Jalasathis from 86 ULBs under PHEO.



The monthly Newsletter of NIC, Odisha "The Ascender - April 2025" issue was released by dignitaries during the State Level Workshop on eGovernance Standards

Publications



Video documentary on launching of revamped Odisha Judicial Academy portal by Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa.

Cyber Safe India Conclave 2025: NIC Officers joined as Cyber Security Evangelists

The Cyber Safe India Conclave-2025 was successfully held on 20th April, 2025 with support from Odisha Computer Applications Centre, drawing attention to the evolving challenges and opportunities in cybersecurity. The event was graced by Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Shri Prithviraj Harichandan, Hon'ble Minister of Law, Works & Excise, Govt. of Odisha.

Senior Officials from NIC Smt. Sujata Dash, Sr. Director (IT) and Shri Niladri Bihari Mohanty, Scientist-D & Joint Director (IT), delivered insightful talks on the emerging cybersecurity landscape, highlighting growing concerns in the age of Artificial Intelligence. They emphasized the importance of proactive defense mechanisms and responsible AI usage to safeguard digital infrastructure.



The conclave provided a vital platform for government officials, IT professionals, and cybersecurity experts to collaborate, discuss and strategize on building a cyber-resilient India, especially amid increasing digital adoption across sectors. The discussions also stressed awareness, policy evolution, and innovation for future-ready security frameworks. The Conclave was coordinated by Dr. Stalin Mishra, Chairperson, Aasta Foundation Trust.



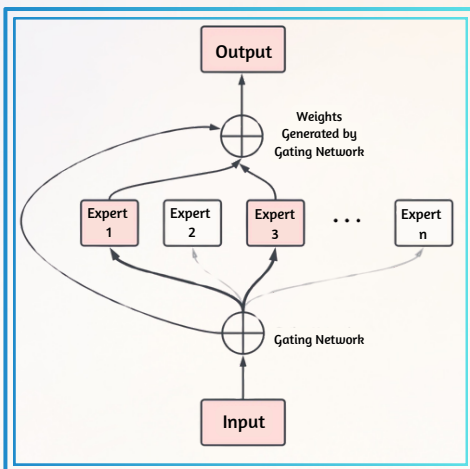
Mixture of Experts: A Smarter Approach to AI Model Efficiency

As AI models grow larger, efficient computation becomes crucial. DeepSeek-V2 gained prominence by showcasing how Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) can revolutionize large language models—enabling it to achieve high performance with reduced computational cost. In MoE models, an “expert” refers to a specialized neural subnetwork trained to handle specific data patterns or tasks—such as reasoning, summarization, or code generation. By selectively activating only a few expert networks per input, MoE empowers tools like DeepSeek-V2 to scale efficiently while maintaining exceptional accuracy and speed, underlining the strategic importance of MoE in modern AI model design.

How MoE Works ?

An MoE model consists of three main components:

- Gating Mechanism** – Selects the most suitable experts for a given input.
- Experts** – Individual subnetworks trained for specialized tasks.
- Combination Layer** – Merges outputs from selected experts to form the final result. Only a few experts are activated per input, boosting efficiency.



Advantages:

- **Computational Efficiency** – Activates only relevant parts of the model.
- **Scalability** – Enables larger models without excessive hardware.
- **Task Specialization** – Improves accuracy through expert focus.
- **Energy Efficiency** – Minimizes unnecessary computations.

Challenges:

- **Training Complexity** – Managing and optimizing multiple experts is challenging.
- **Inference Latency** – Routing inputs may slow processing.

Applications:

MoE is used in large language models like Google’s Switch Transformer and DeepSeek-V2, computer vision systems, and autonomous AI for task-specific processing and faster decision-making.

Contributed by: Shri Lalit Mohan Pradhan, STA-A



Jala Mahotsav: A Thoughtful Initiative for Public Welfare

In a heartwarming act of community service, the NIC Employees’ Association for Recreation and Sports (NEARS) set up “Jala Mahotsav” — a small but impactful drinking water outlet right in front of the NIC, Odisha State Centre. Launched in mid-April, during the peak of summer, the initiative aimed to bring relief to people battling the scorching heat. Every day, Jala Mahotsav offered cool curd-water to tired and thirsty commuters, pedestrians, and passersby. On average, NEARS served around 250 liters of this refreshing drink daily.



Our sincere tribute and honour to
Shri Bijaya Kumar Samal, Scientist-F (Senior Director(IT)),
on the eve of his attaining superannuation
for the years of dedicated & exemplary service at NIC, Odisha.

IT by Tea



Digital Twins: Reimagining Reality in Real Time

Myth:

A Digital Twin is just another name for a 3D model. Digital Twins are only used for engineering.

Reality:

Digital Twins aren’t just 3D models — they’re real-time, data-powered versions of real-world stuff, like buildings, machines, or even entire cities. Powered by Internet of Things, AI, and Advanced Analytics, these virtual counterparts continuously gather and update data from their physical versions, enabling organizations to monitor, simulate, and optimize operations with greater precision.

Digital twins find applications across various sectors including healthcare (personalized treatment planning), energy (asset optimization), and retail (enhanced customer experience) etc.

Contributed by: Shri Vinay Kumar Tiwari, DIO I/c - Nuapada