NEWSLETTER
The Ascender
MIRROR OF NIC ODISHA
July - 2026

From Pahadpur to Jharsuguda: NIC Connects a Historic Day for Odisha

The Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, jointly visited Mayurbhanj district on 20th June, 2026, marking a historic engagement in the tribal-dominated region.

The visit focused on grassroot level tribal empowerment and also coincided with the celebration of the Hon'ble President's 68th birthday. During the "Vikas ra Dhara, Odisha Sara" programme held at Rairangpur, commemorating two years of the Government of Odisha, major development projects worth over ₹47,600 crore were launched, aimed at accelerating the state's socio-economic growth .

NIC Odisha ensured seamless video conferencing operations and end-to-end technical support across all event locations, including Pahadpur, Dandbose, Rairangpur and Jharsuguda. The dedicated efforts of the Video Conferencing Divisions of NIC New Delhi and NIC Odisha, along with the officers of NIC, Odisha deployed at all venues, were widely acknowledged by the authorities for ensuring the successful conduct of this high-profile event.

राष्ट्रीय सूचना-विज्ञान केंद्र में राजभाषायी निरीक्षण

राष्ट्रीय सूचना-विज्ञान केंद्र, भुवनेश्वर में दिनांक 16-06-2026 को मुख्यालय द्वारा राजभाषायी निरीक्षण किया गया । निरीक्षण के लिए एनआईसी, मुख्यालय, नई दिल्ली से वरिष्ठ तकनीकी निदेशक एवं राजभाषा विभागाध्यक्ष श्री राजेंद्र कुमार अग्रवाल जी उपस्थित थे । श्री अग्रवाल जी ने राष्ट्रीय सूचना-विज्ञान केंद्र, भुवनेश्वर में राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन जैसे धारा 3(3) का अनुपालन, हिन्दी पत्राचार, हिन्दी टिप्पण, प्रशिक्षण,प्रोत्साहन तथा अन्य संबन्धित विषयों का मदवार जायज़ा लिया और लगभग सभी मुद्दों पर हो रहे कार्योंको संतोषजनक पाया।

निरीक्षण में राष्ट्रीय सूचना-विज्ञान केंद्र, भुवनेश्वर के वरिष्ठ तकनीकी निदेशक तथा राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति के उपाध्यक्ष श्री मलय कुमार दास तथा हिन्दी अनुवादक डॉ अलका प्रधान उपस्थित थे । निरीक्षण के उपरांत राज्य सूचना-विज्ञान अधिकारी डॉ अशोक कुमार होता की अध्यक्षता में बुलाई गई बैठक में राष्ट्रीय सूचना-विज्ञान केंद्र, भुवनेश्वर के सभी अधिकारियों तथा VC के जरिए जुड़े जिलाधिकारियों को संबोधित करते हुए श्री राजेंद्र कुमार अग्रवाल जी ने राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन पर भारत सरकार की राजभाषा नीति, नियमों तथा अधिनियमों को विस्तार से समझाया । उन्होंने इस केंद्र का मासिक पत्रिका "द असेंडर" का जून 2026 का हिंदी संस्करण जारी किया।

उन्होंने अधिकारियों के प्रश्नों का उत्तर सरल और सहज भाषा में दिया, जिससे राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन की समझ और स्पष्ट हुई । यह निरीक्षण न केवल राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति का मूल्यांकन था, बल्कि अधिकारियों को हिन्दी के प्रयोग को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के लिए प्रेरित करने का अवसर भी बना ।

SATHI Receives Strong Stakeholder Appreciation at Seed Accelerator Meet 3.0

The Seed Accelerator Meet 3.0 was held in New Delhi, jointly organized by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), ICAR–Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR) and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The meet brought together researchers, government agencies, seed companies, extension partners and farmer organizations to accelerate the adoption of improved rice varieties across the country.

As an invited speaker, Shri Niladri Bihari Mohanty, Scientist-D & Joint Director (IT), NIC, Odisha presented the national flagship initiative - SATHI (Seed Authentication Traceability and Holistic Inventory), highlighting its objectives, key features, and current rollout status. He addressed queries from stakeholders and explained various onboarding mechanisms available for Truthfully Labelled Seed (TLS) producers, including simplified participation models that minimize operational efforts. His session witnessed active engagement and was widely appreciated by participants for its practical insights and clarity.

District e-Counselling Portal, Kendrapada : Digital Platform for Employee Transfers and Postings

The District e-Counselling Portal, developed by Shri Subhendu Sekhar Sahoo, DIO, Kendrapada serves as a comprehensive digital platform for managing transfers and postings of employees within the district.

The portal has successfully facilitated the transfer of more than 300 employees and all district-level transfer and posting activities are now conducted exclusively through the application. It provides real-time information on vacancy positions across offices, along with office-wise details of employees who have joined and those who have been transferred, enabling informed and data-driven decision-making during the counselling process.

The application incorporates customizable transfer parameters as prescribed by the Transfer Committee, including provisions relating to home-block postings, restrictions on local office postings and limitations on postings to previous or earlier stations. By allowing employees to exercise their preferences within a transparent, rule-based framework, the portal promotes active employee participation. Upon completion of the counselling process, the system generates a comprehensive report containing detailed transfer records, facilitating efficient documentation, verification, and administrative reporting.

Driving Digital Governance: A Statewide Report on the Transparent e-Lottery Settlement of Retail Liquor Shops in Odisha (2026–27)

The Department of Excise, Govt. of Odisha successfully launched its 17-phase e-Lottery process on 5th May 2026, for the settlement of retail liquor shops for the 2026–27 excise year. This massive digital initiative covered 1,055 IMFL OFF Shops and 197 Country Liquor (CL) Shops, attracting a total of 29,018 applications from across India, including 26,177 for IMFL OFF and 2,841 for CL. The process concluded with a significant collection of over Rs. 842 crores in non-refundable application fees.

NIC Odisha's Pivotal Contribution:

The entire settlement process was powered by the eAbkari portal (https://stateexcise.odisha.gov.in), developed and maintained by NIC, Odisha. Involvement of NIC was critical at both the state and district levels.

- **Technical Framework:** NIC provided the digital infrastructure for secure online application submissions and document uploads.
- **District Support:** District Informatics Officers (DIOs) served as key members of Scrutiny and Lottery Committees, overseeing the verification of applicant data and technical validation.
- **Transparency & Accountability:** To ensure public confidence, NIC facilitated real-time displays of lottery proceedings and immediate entry of winners into the portal.
- A major highlight was the mandatory screen recording of the winner-entry process to create a verifiable audit trail. In several districts, NIC also deployed technical personnel (FMS and DRM) to manage network connectivity and uninterrupted internet services.

District Highlights:

District reports underscore the high level of participation and the efficiency of the digital system.

- **Districts with High Volume data:** Puri recorded the highest number of applications at 1,791 for 54 shops, with the Konark IMFL shop alone receiving 209 applications and Sundargarh/Rourkela (1,692 applications), Cuttack (1,587 applications), and Keonjhar (1,163 applications).
- **Large Scale Operations:** Angul successfully processed 1990 applications for 57 shops, while Kendrapara managed 1,092 applications for 64 shops.
- **Diverse Participation:** Even in smaller districts like Nabarangpur, 958 applications were received for just 13 shops, demonstrating the widespread competitive interest.

The successful execution of this e-Lottery reflects a landmark achievement in digital governance, ensuring a fair, transparent and technology-driven settlement process across the state.



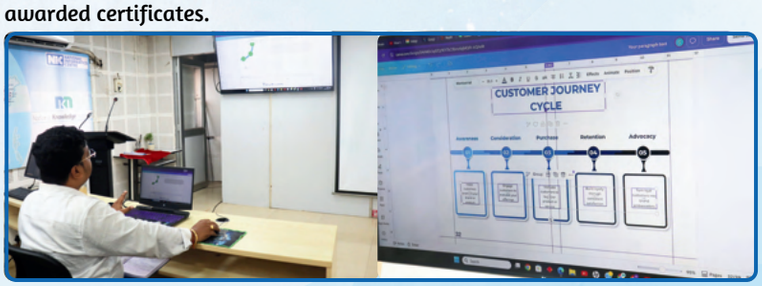





Canva Training: Transforming Ideas into Engaging Designs

A two-week long Training Programme on Canva, a widely used graphic design platform, was organized for DIOs and officers of NIC, Odisha from 8th to 19th June, 2026. The programme was conducted under the initiative of Shri Jayanta Kumar Mishra, Sr. Director (IT) and Head (Training), NIC, Odisha.

The training covered the fundamentals of graphic design, principles of visual communication and the effective use of different design tools for creating professional-quality digital contents. The programme concluded with an assessments and participants who successfully completed the course were awarded certificates.



महीने के हिन्दी शब्द

• Monthly Report	: मासिक रिपोर्ट	• Claimant	: दावेदार
• Book Value	: अंकित मूल्य	• Compassionate Ground	: अनुकंपा आधार
• Budget Allocation	: बजट आवंटन	• Controlling Authority	: नियंत्रण प्राधिकारी
• Check Points	: जांच बिंदु	• Co-opted Member	: सहयोजित सदस्य

Publications

Scan the QR for UIUX Brochure

eDetection : Strengthening Road Safety Through Intelligent Digital Enforcement

Photo Story

The Hon'ble Governor of Odisha interacted with NIC team led by Shri Sambit Kumar Panda, Senior Director(IT) to deliberate on the implementation of the results.odisha.gov.in portal for all universities, aimed at enhancing the efficiency and transparency of result publication.

Hindi Karyashala organized at NIC, Odisha on 17th June, 2026, featuring an address by Shri Akshaya Kumar Purohit, Scientist-F, Head, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on the topic "Standards of Software and Hardware-Related Items."

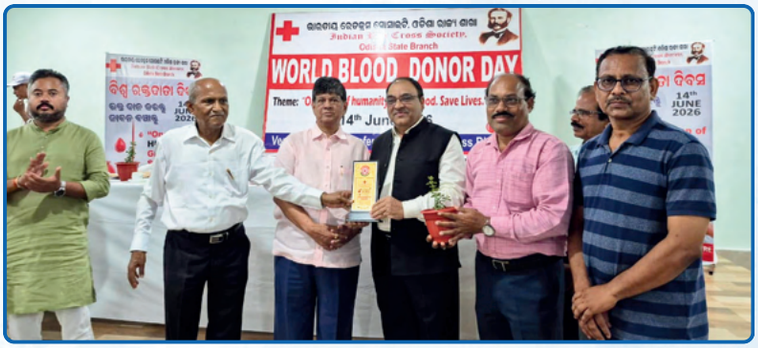
Shri Kandra Hembram, DIO, NIC, Sundargarh District Centre, conducted the onboarding of on the AEBAS application at the District Jail, Sundargarh, as part of the efforts to enhance the implementation of the biometric attendance system.

NIC, Nuapada District Centre, under the guidance of Shri Vinay Kumar Tiwari, DIO, organized a Cyber Bullying and Cyber Stalking Awareness Programme at Sinapali Block, Nuapada, under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative".

NIC, Odisha organized a farewell gathering to honor 17 officers on their transfer to new assignments, acknowledging their dedicated service and contributions.

Awards and Accolades

NIC has been conferred with the prestigious Registrar of the Year - Highest DNSSEC award. The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) presented this honor during its 23rd Foundation Day celebrations in New Delhi. NIC manages domain registration services and plays a pivotal role in maintaining the .gov.in namespace. Currently, NIC administers more than 4,500 third-level domains and approximately 1.5 lakh .gov.in subdomains, enabling a robust and secure digital presence for government organizations across the country.



NIC, Odisha received an award from the Red Cross for voluntary blood donation, recognizing the spirit of service and contribution towards humanitarian causes.

Shri Tapas Kumar Patra, Scientist-C, NIC, Odisha, was felicitated by the National Health Mission, Odisha, on World Sickle Cell Awareness Day in recognition of his valuable contribution to Health Domain.

Farewell

Our sincere tribute and honour to
Shri Lalatendu Dash, Scientist-F (Senior Director-IT)
Shri Mihir Ranjan Mohanty, Scientist-F (Senior Director-IT)
Shri Jayanta Kumar Mishra, Scientist-F (Senior Director-IT)
on the eve of attaining superannuation
for their years of dedicated & exemplary service at NIC, Odisha.

NIC Panorama

NIC, Odisha celebrated 12TH International Yoga Day

The 12th International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Dr. Seshagiri Memorial Hall, NIC, Odisha, with active participation of officers and staff. The programme, themed "Yoga for Healthy Aging," began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and chanting of the Gayatri Mantra. Ms. Itishree Nanda, Director (IT), served as the Master Trainer, conducting yoga asanas and pranayama with support of Ms. Sujata Pattnaik and Ms. Rashmita Jena, Assistant Yoga Teachers of Patanjali Yoga Sansthan. District officers joined through VC. The programme concluded with memento presentation and a vote of thanks inspiring participants to adopt yoga for holistic well-being.

IT by Tea

The Convergence of Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence

Myth: Quantum AI is a distant 2040s sci-fi concept and until we have perfect, error-free "fault-tolerant" quantum computers, quantum physics cannot help optimize or speed up practical machine learning models.

Truth: We don't need to wait decades to explore Quantum AI. We have already entered the era of Hybrid Quantum-Classical AI, where classical CPUs and GPUs perform most of the computation while quantum processors are used selectively for specialized tasks such as optimization, quantum chemistry simulations and certain machine learning subroutines. Frameworks such as NVIDIA CUDA-Q, IBM Qiskit, and PennyLane enable developers to build these hybrid workflows. Recent advances in quantum error mitigation and noise-resilient algorithms have demonstrated promising results on today's noisy quantum hardware for selected scientific and optimization problems. While quantum processors are not yet ready to replace deep learning or classical AI, they have the potential to serve as powerful accelerators for specific computational bottlenecks in areas such as molecular biology, power grid optimization, materials science, and cryptography.

Contributed By: Shri Abhishek Singh
DIO, Anugul

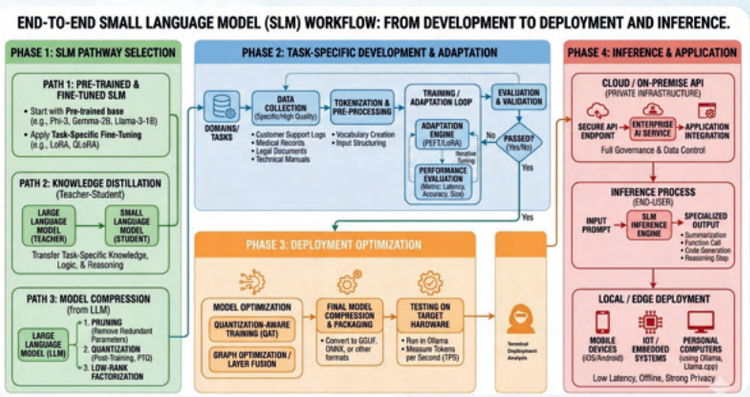
Tech Talk

The Rise of Small Language Models: A Leap Toward Sustainable AI

Small Language Models (SLMs) represent a massive step forward for sustainable AI. By drastically reducing hardware costs and carbon footprints, they allow enterprises to deploy fast, private, and highly efficient AI directly on localized, everyday devices.

How SLMs are transforming the enterprise AI landscape:

1. **Slashing Carbon Footprints:** SLMs (1–8 billion parameters) require far less computing power than massive models, significantly reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions, and environmental impact while maintaining efficiency.
2. **Driving Down Hardware Costs:** Unlike large AI models that require costly, specialized GPU clusters, SLMs run efficiently on standard enterprise hardware, edge devices, smartphones, and laptops, reducing infrastructure costs and enabling wider deployment.
3. **Ensuring Strict Data Privacy:** Unlike cloud-based AI, SLMs run securely on-premises, keeping sensitive health, financial, and proprietary data within organizational networks while ensuring privacy, compliance, and data sovereignty.
4. **Specializing for High Performance:** By leveraging high-quality domain-specific data and Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning (PEFT) techniques such as LoRA, QLoRA, Adapters, Prefix Tuning, Prompt Tuning, IA^3, and BitFit, Small Language Models (SLMs) can be rapidly customized for enterprise-specific workflows with minimal computational resources.



Unlike large language models that require extensive GPU infrastructure, storage, and energy for fine-tuning, SLMs achieve domain expertise efficiently and often rival or surpass larger models in specialized tasks such as healthcare, legal, finance, agriculture, and government services, delivering AI that is smarter, greener, cost-effective and securely localized.

Contributed By : Satyajit Dash
Scientist – B

TOONIC

"...Oh Dear...its 'M.E.S.S.I'... not 'Messy' ... and I doubt some kind of higher intelligence is there below his knees... may be artificial but has an absolute command over that chequered sphere."

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