NEWSLETTER
The Ascender
MIRROR OF NIC ODISHA
October - 2026

20TH ROZGAR MELA: OVER 51,000 APPOINTMENT LETTERS DISTRIBUTED

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited youths across various Government organisations during the 20th Rozgar Mela, held on 19th September, 2026 through video conferencing.

The nationwide Rozgar Mela was organised simultaneously at 45 locations across the country. In Odisha, the programme was held at Kataka and Bhubaneswar. The event was graced by Shri Jual Oram, Hon'ble Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and Shri Kamlesh Paswan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development. NIC played a key role in facilitating seamless video-conferencing connectivity and providing end-to-end ICT support, contributing to the smooth and successful conduct of the programme in both the locations.

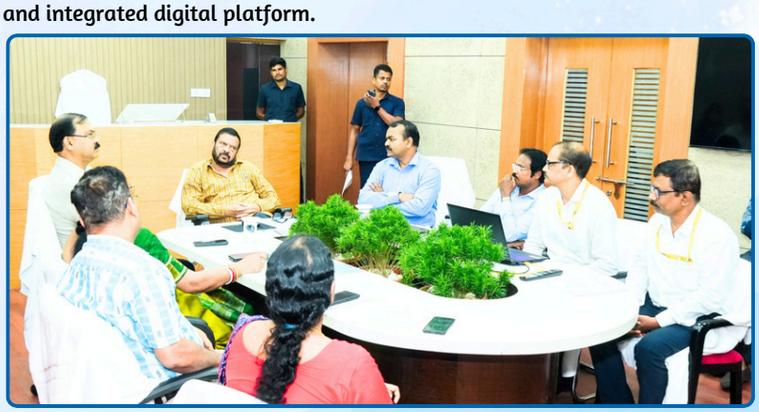


HON'BLE CABINET MINISTER, R & DM SHRI SURESH PUJARI LAUNCHED NEW WEBSITE OF BOARD OF REVENUE, ODISHA

The new website of The Board of Revenue (BoR), Odisha, was launched by Shri Suresh Pujari, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Revenue & DM, in the presence of Shri Satyabrata Sahu, IAS, Member, Board of Revenue; Shri Laxmikant Sethi, Secretary, BoR; Shri Jageswar Sahu, ASIO, NIC Odisha, along with other senior officials of the Revenue Administration and NIC on 11th Sept., 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister said that these initiatives mark a new chapter in leveraging technology to make information and judicial knowledge more accessible within the revenue administration. Shri Satyabrata Sahu, Member, BoR, highlighted that the new website brings together rich administrative legacy of the Board with modern technology. The portal provides structured and comprehensive information on the activities, branches and divisions of the Board.

The website also facilitates access to information relating to key revenue institutions, including the Commissioner of Land Reforms, Commissioner of Land Records and Settlement, Commissioner of Consolidation, and Inspector General of Registration.The launch marks an important step towards digital transformation of revenue administration in Odisha, enabling stakeholders and citizens to access relevant information through a modern, user-friendly and integrated digital platform.



TECH-BOOT CAMP ON INFORMATION SECURITY & RISK MANAGEMENT

A State Level Tech-Bootcamp on "Information Security and Risk Management" was organised on 8th September, 2026 at NIC, OSC, Bhubaneswar. Around 100 officials from the Government of Odisha and NIC Odisha State Centre participated in the bootcamp. Delivering the Inaugural Address, Prof. (Dr.) Banshidhar Majhi, Vice Chancellor, C. V. Raman Global University, Odisha, highlighted the growing importance of information security and emphasised the need to identify, assess and effectively manage information security risks in the present digital landscape.

In his Keynote Address, Air Commodore Niranjan Kumar Parhi (Retd.), former ADG, Defence Cyber Agency, Ministry of Defence, elaborated on the offensive and defensive applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in cyber security and the emerging challenges and opportunities associated with the uses of AI. The bootcamp featured five technical sessions covering various aspects of cyber threats and cyber security, including the Cyber Defence Toolkit, Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, mobile device security and hacking, and other emerging areas.



ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PRESENTS BEST PRACTICES AT 69TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

It was a proud moment for Odisha as Shri Satyabrata Rout, IAS, Secretary, Odisha Legislative Assembly, presented a paper on "Best Practices of the Odisha Legislative Assembly" at the SOCATT (Society of Clerks at the Table) Meeting during the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 19th September, 2026. Shri Rout was one among the 10 Secretaries selected from nearly 180 Secretaries representing 56 Commonwealth countries to make presentations at the prestigious international forum.

He highlighted the digital transformation of the Assembly and acknowledged the significant support of NIC in implementing 'National e-Vidhan Application' (NeVA). The initiative has helped making legislative processes paperless, technology-enabled and efficient. The presentation was well appreciated, showcasing successful adoption of digital technology in Odisha to strengthen legislative functioning and bringing recognition to the State and the contribution of NIC to digital governance.



eCabinet Product Demonstrated to the Government of Odisha

The eCabinet system, developed by NIC, Uttarakhand, was demonstrated to the officials of Government of Odisha on 10th August, 2026 with an objective of promoting smarter, paperless and technology-driven Cabinet proceedings. The demonstration was held in the presence of the Chief Secretary, the ACS & Development Commissioner, the ACS to Hon'ble CM, the ACS, E&IT and other senior officials of the Government of Odisha. The Session was organised by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, which provided an overview of the complete lifecycle of a Cabinet meeting—from preparation and submission of agenda items and secure sharing of documents to recording decisions and monitoring subsequent action points.

The demonstration was led by Shri Sanjay Gupta, DDG and Shri Arun Sharma, Director (IT) & Project Coordinator, eCabinet, from NIC Uttarakhand. The programme was coordinated by Shri Sambit Kumar Panda, Senior Director (IT) and Shri Ashok Rout, Joint Director (IT) from NIC Odisha.



Two-Day Joint Training Programme on New Criminal Laws

The Odisha Judicial Academy (OJA), Kataka, organized a two-day joint training programme on the 'Effective Implementation of the New Criminal Laws' on 5th and 6th September, 2026. The programme brought together Judicial Officers in the cadre of SDJMs and JMFCs (Cognizance), Public Prosecutors, Police Officers, Forensic Science Officers from various districts, and Prison Officials from different jails across the State.

As part of the programme, Shri Rahul Kumar Jain, Sr. Director (IT), ASIO & HoD, MedLEaPR, NIC, Haryana and Shri Ranjan Kumar, Jt. Director (IT), NIC, New Delhi, elaborated on New Criminal Law and applications ICJS such as eSakshya, eSummon, NyaySruti etc, sharing their expertise and insights on the effective implementation of the new criminal laws and related technological initiatives.

The programme was coordinated by Shri Akankhit Mishra, Addl. Director, OJA, with the assistance of Smt. Monita Tripathy, Dy. Director, OJA; Shri Sanjib Panda, Asst. Director, OJA, and their team, under the guidance of Shri Bidyut Kumar Mishra, Director, OJA. Shri Siba Prasad Dash, Sr. Director (IT), State HoD & State Coordinator (ICJS), Odisha, coordinated the programme and facilitated participation of NIC. Special appreciation is extended to Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pathak, DDG (Pers.) & State Coordinator (Odisha); Shri Shashikant Sharma, DDG & HoG (ICJS); and Shri Sarabjit Singh, DDG & SIO, NIC Haryana, for their valuable support and guidance, which contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the programme.



हिंदी पखवाड़ा-2026

राजभाषा हिंदी के अधिकाधिक प्रयोग को प्रोत्साहित करने के उद्देश्य से एनआईसी, ओडिशा में 01 से 24 सितंबर 2026 तक हिंदी पखवाड़ा–2026 का आयोजन उत्साहपूर्वक किया गया। पखवाड़े के दौरान विभिन्न हिंदी प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया, जिनमें हिंदी श्रुतलेखन एवं टंकण, हिंदी-अंग्रेजी अनुवाद, चित्र आधारित रचनात्मक लेखन, आशुभाषण तथा कविता पाठ प्रमुख रहे।

पखवाड़े के उद्घाटन समारोह में श्री राजीव रंजन, राजभाषा अधिकारी, इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक, भुवनेश्वर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में शामिल हुए। समापन समारोह में श्री धीरेन्द्र कुमार झा, प्राचार्य, केंद्रीय विद्यालय-4, भुवनेश्वर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित रहे।

इस अवसर पर एनआईसी, ओडिशा की न्यूज़लेटर 'द एसेंडर (सितंबर - 2026)' के हिंदी संस्करण का विमोचन भी किया गया। हिंदी के प्रयोग एवं प्रचार-प्रसार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अधिकारियों द्वारा विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक एवं रचनात्मक कार्यक्रम प्रस्तुत की गईं, जिनमें गीत गायन, कविता पाठ, हास्य-प्रसंग, लघु वक्तव्य तथा नाटक विशेष आकर्षण रहे।

समापन समारोह में विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं के विजेताओं को पुरस्कार एवं प्रमाण-पत्र प्रदान किए गए। पूरे पखवाड़े के दौरान अधिकारियों की उत्साहपूर्ण भागीदारी ने राजभाषा हिंदी के प्रति उनकी प्रतिबद्धता को प्रदर्शित किया। कार्यक्रम का समन्वय श्रीमती शिवानी कोराह, वरिष्ठ निदेशक (आईटी), डॉ. अलका प्रधान, हिंदी अनुवादक एवं डॉ. अशोक कुमार होता, उप महानिदेशक तथा राज्य सूचना विज्ञान अधिकारी के मार्गदर्शन में किया गया।



Rotary AI Summit 2026

The Rotary AI Summit - 2026, was organised by Rotary International District 3262 and hosted by the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Meadows on 19th September, 2026 at KIIT Campus-7 Auditorium, Bhubaneswar. The summit brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss emerging trends in Artificial Intelligence, its opportunities and challenges, and its responsible adoption.

Shri Niladri Bihari Mohanty, Scientist-D & Joint Director (IT), NIC, Odisha joining the panel discussion highlighted the potential of AI to drive innovation, strengthen public services and contribute to societal development while emphasising the importance of ethical, inclusive and responsible use of emerging technologies.



Photo Story



A two-day National BoCW (Building and Other Construction Workers) Conference at NIC, Odisha from 11th to 12th September, 2026. Senior officials of the Labour Department, along with representatives of construction workers, participated in the conference.



Shri Ajay Kumar Mohapatra, DIO and Shri Sanket Kumar Panda, DIA, Mayurbhanj, delivered a session on "Cyber Safety and Responsible Digital Behaviour" under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) programme on 5th September, 2026 at Zilla Parishad Conference Hall, Baripada.



Shri Sanket Kumar Panda, DIA, Mayurbhanj, attended the CM-KISAN Rabi 2026–27 disbursement programme on 4th September, 2026 at MSCB University, Baripada.



A training and demonstration session on PM-RAHAT was conducted on 24th September, 2026 at NIC Dhenkanal for officials of the Police Department.



Nabarangpur College organised a Faculty Development Programme on 30th September, 2026 based on the theme "ChatGPT and Generative AI for Teaching and Academic Work". The programme was graced by Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Vice Chancellor, Vikram Dev University; Sri Ranjan Kumar Pradhan, Controller of Examinations, Vikram Dev University; Sri Biswaranjan Bhukta, Deputy Director (I.T.), NIC, Nabarangpur; and other distinguished dignitaries.



Shri Subhendu Sekhar Sahoo, DIO, Kendrapada, attended the Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana programme at Sanskruti Bhawan on 1st September, 2026, along with the Collector, ADM and Deputy Collectors of Kendrapara District.



DIOs conducted physical audits of designated examination centres for the NTA UGC-NET examination on 3rd September, 2026.

Publications

Scan the QR for Cyber Security Awareness Brochure released during the State Level Tech-Boot Camp

NIC Odisha observed ZERO PENDENCY DAY on 30th September 2026

Administration & Accounts Section of NIC, Odisha State Centre observed Zero Pendency Day on 30th September, 2026 towards half yearly closing for F. Y. 2026-2027. A meeting of all officers and Admin officials was organized to celebrate the Day. Dr. Ashok Ku. Hota, DDG & SIO, Odisha congratulated and appreciated the whole team for putting their concerted effort under the leadership of Shri Managobinda Singh, Dy. Director & DDO, for timely settling of all financial claims / bills of NIC Officers, vendor payments, etc.

The excellent guidance and timely advise of PAO, NIC HQ, Budget Plan Section, Audit Section and all Administration Sections of NIC HQ are highly appreciated in achieving this ZERO PENDENCY towards half yearly closing for F.Y. 2026-2027 in NIC, Odisha State Centre.



NIC Panorama

Ganesh Puja and Vishwakarma Puja Celebrated at NIC Odisha

NIC Odisha celebrated Ganesh Puja on 14th September, 2026 at the NIC Odisha State Centre with devotion and enthusiasm. The celebration commenced with traditional prayers seeking the blessings of Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles and the symbol of wisdom and prosperity. Officers and staff participated in the rituals with devotion and festive spirit.

Vishwakarma Puja was celebrated on 17th September, 2026 at the National Data Centre, Bhubaneswar, with traditional rituals and prayers seeking the blessings of Lord Vishwakarma, the divine architect. The occasion highlighted the importance of technology, skill, creativity and excellence in professional endeavours. Both celebrations brought the NIC family together, fostering a spirit of camaraderie, cultural harmony and togetherness.



महीने के हिन्दी शब्द

- Academic session : शैक्षणिक सत्र
- Adaptation : अनुकूलन
- Backlog : पिछला / बकाया
- Branch Office : शाखा कार्यालय
- Cashbook : रोकड़ बही
- Civil supplies : नागरिक पूर्ति
- Classification : वर्गीकरण
- Code of Conduct : आचार संहिता

IT by Tea

Blockchain & Cryptocurrency: The Absolute Security Myth

Blockchain has emerged as a globally recognized trust technology, gaining widespread adoption across finance, supply chains, digital identity and government because of its transparency, cryptographic integrity and tamper-evident records.

Myth: Blockchain technology is mathematically unhackable, making any system built on top of it completely immune to theft, fraud, or data manipulation.

Truth: Blockchain provides strong cryptographic integrity and tamper resistance; however, the surrounding ecosystem remains vulnerable to implementation flaws, compromised credentials, malicious inputs, application-level attacks and breach the third-party digital wallets. If a developer leaves a security vulnerability in a smart contract's code, attackers can drain millions of dollars in seconds with zero legal recourse. True blockchain implementation requires rigorous, specialized code audits and adherence to evolving security standards like the Cryptocurrency Security Standard (CCSS).

Contributed By: Shri Saurabh Shukla
DIO, NIC, Baragada

Tech Talk

GPT-6 Astra: From Language Models to Computer-Using Agents

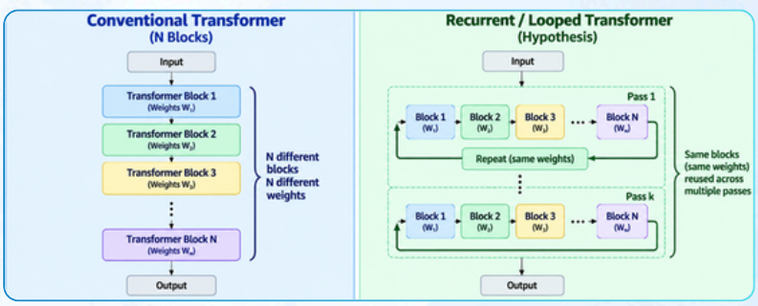
GPT-6 Astra represents an evolution in artificial intelligence from language models to agents using computer. Rather than relying only on predefined APIs, Astra can interact with browsers, computers and other software environments.



With 1.05 million token context windows compared to 0.4 million of GPT-5 and capabilities such as web search, code execution and computer use, GPT-6 Astra combines reasoning with tangible digital execution. Although its sister model, GPT-6 Luna, is designed as OpenAI's most efficient model for focused, high-volume tasks, offering the same 1.05-million-token context window at a substantially lower cost, GPT-6 Astra distinguishes itself through higher-end reasoning and stronger performance on demanding, multi-step workflows. It is therefore better suited to complex analysis, coding, research, and professional tasks where capability matters more than cost or throughput.

What's happening under the hood?

The internals of Astra are not publicly disclosed, one plausible theory is recurrent depth/looped transformers: a single stack of Transformer layers is reused across multiple passes. This could produce greater effective depth with less unique parameter count.



OpenAI classifies Astra at the "Critical" cyber security capability level, reflecting its ability, with appropriate tools and access, to autonomously identify vulnerabilities and develop sophisticated exploits against hardened systems. Astra is thus part of a major discontinuity in AI capabilities: from systems that answer questions to ones that reason, act, observe and adapt.

Contributed By : Shri Sanket Kumar Panda
DIA, NIC, Mayurbhanj



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