

## Digital India State Consultation Workshop Concludes with a Unified Vision for Tech-Driven Governance

Bhopal, May 9, 2025

The Digital India State Consultation Workshop, held as part of the two-day event AI Bharat @ MP – Workshop on Accelerating Governance with AI Innovation, Aadhaar and State Consultation, concluded today at the Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre (Minto Hall), Bhopal. Jointly organized by the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation (MPSEDC) and the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the second day focused on strengthening Centre-State collaboration under the Digital India programme. The aim was to highlight key eGovernance initiatives by MeitY that enable knowledge exchange, identify opportunities for IT projects leveraging the Digital India platform, and define the roadmap for technology-driven governance.

Emphasizing the importance of shared learning, J. L. Gupta, Director, National e-Governance Division (NeGD), noted, “Today, under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, we are hosting the Digital India State Consultation Workshop with the goal of making government schemes more accessible to every citizen. The aim of this workshop is to enable a collaborative approach, where model RFPs and shared experiences from states help us implement digital projects more efficiently.” He further shared that NeGD is working toward launching a single helpline to support all Digital India initiatives and continues to offer daily video conferencing support to resolve state-level implementation challenges.

**Prasoon Kumar**, Senior Manager at NeGD, provided insights into DigiLocker’s growing role in digital governance: “DigiLocker is more than a document storage system—it is a digital wallet that empowers citizens with secure, paperless, and anytime-anywhere access to their essential documents. Today, it supports Aadhaar, PAN, birth and death certificates, driving licenses, mark sheets, and more.” He elaborated that “DigiLocker consists of two key parts: issued documents, directly linked from the source, and DigiLocker Drive, where users can upload and eSign legacy documents. We’ve also introduced Entity Locker—a cloud-based solution to help MSMEs, trusts, and institutions manage their documents securely.”

Adding to the vision of mobile-first governance, **Ajeet Kumar**, Deputy General Manager, NeGD, noted, “UMANG is not just an app—it’s a movement to simplify governance. Instead of navigating dozens of government apps, citizens now have a single platform to access services from Aadhaar and PAN to both state and central schemes—all just one tap away.” He emphasized, “With a multilingual interface, intuitive design, and 24x7 accessibility, UMANG puts the power of governance in the hands of the people. This is the future of mobile governance—simple, inclusive, and citizen-first.”

A pivotal part of the day was the open consultation session between state and central officials, where representatives from NeGD, MeitY, NIC, and implementing agencies addressed practical hurdles such as financial constraints, onboarding of state schemes, and skilling gaps. The discussion reiterated the federated architecture of Digital India—empowering states to innovate locally while aligning with national frameworks.

Highlighting Madhya Pradesh's leadership in digital infrastructure, Guru Prasad, Project Director, MPSEDC, stated, "To realize the vision of Digital India, we must begin with robust infrastructure. Madhya Pradesh proudly hosts its own data center with a capacity of 1 petabyte and is the first state in India to implement an SD-WAN enabled SWAN network, offering speeds up to 2 Gbps. From Sampada 2.0 to end-to-end automation of services, we are closing the digital governance loop in Madhya Pradesh." He also highlighted MPSEDC's national contributions, including platforms like urban survey software, and policy interventions in emerging sectors like AVGC, drones, GCCs, and semiconductors.

The post-lunch technical sessions brought in domain experts to present on critical topics such as the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023, cyber security, digital health via eSanjeevani, and school education through DIKSHA. Panneerselvam Madanagopal, CEO of MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), remarked, "At MeitY Startup Hub, we believe that innovation is not just about ideas—it's about transformation. We're enabling startups to thrive at every stage through progressive policies, funding, and global exposure. Our mission is clear—connect, empower, and elevate India's startup journey from local solutions to global impact."

The workshop concluded with a consensus on the need for regular consultations, capacity-building, and policy alignment to ensure the success of Digital India at the grassroots level. It served as a vital platform for peer learning, inter-departmental dialogue, and co-creating future pathways for inclusive, innovation-led governance in Madhya Pradesh and across the country.