Tech-Driven

Agricultural and Governance Reforms Discussed at Emerging Technologies Workshop in Meghalaya

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) organised a two-day Workshop on Emerging Technologies in Shillong, Meghalaya in collaboration with the Government of Meghalaya's Department of Information Technology & Communications (IT&C) on April 24 - 25, 2025.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma joined the event through video conferencing, and during his keynote address outlined a transformative vision for Meghalaya's agricultural and governance sectors through cutting-edge technological integration. Shri Donald P Wahland, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya; Ms. Idashisha Nongrang, DGP, Govt. of Meghalaya; Shri Ranjit Singh Gill, PCCF and HoFF, Meghalaya; Shri Pravin Bakshi, Commissioner & Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya; Shri K L Nongbri, Joint Secretary, IT&C Dept, Govt. of Meghalaya; Shri Nand Kumarum, President & CEO, NeGD, MeitY, Government of India; and Shri Dinesh Didel, Director, NeGD graced the event. The workshop brought together policymakers, domain experts, and stakeholders to discuss scalable solutions in AI, blockchain, cyber security, and public digital infrastructure.

The event highlighted the transformative potential of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), paperless governance, data sharing platform, data analytics, data science and other Digital India initiatives. It focused on implementing emerging technologies in governance, aligning with the mission of the Digital India Programme. Technical sessions in the workshop also covered topics such as cybersecurity, and user-centric governance frameworks.

Talking about the state's revolutionary e-Proposal and Digital File Systems under the Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), the CM emphasised upon Meghalaya's ambition to become the 'Northeast's IT and digital services hub', with plans to expand Shillong's tech parks and extend fiber-optic networks. The State is also integrating Khasi and Garo languages into the AI-powered Bhashini platform to ensure inclusive digital growth, he shared.

"Technology must drive positive change and solve real-world challenges. The eco system is being developed to foster growth of IT/ ITeS industry in Shillong thereby contributing to the vision and mission to develop the state as the Digital Hub of North East India," Shri Sangma said.

<u>Collaborative Efforts</u>

Shri Donald P Wahland, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya explained how with the help of State enterprise architecture, officials are able to approve official files via online mode thereby adapting paperless governance. He also briefed about the setup of UAV training facility in the state and how it is useful in detecting coal mines and information about other unassessed remote locations.

Shri Nand Kumarum, President & CEO, NeGD, MeitY, Govt. of India stressed to take up IT projects and implement them with the help of local talents and suggested the use of AR and VR to empower the tourism sector. He also urged departments to adopt a startup mindset, prioritise up-skilling, and leverage national programs like INDIAai and Bhashini.

The two-day workshop featured a series of technical sessions focusing on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, UX in Governance, and Public Digital Infrastructure and was attended by senior officials across various government departments, the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), academic institutions such as IIM Shillong, NIT Meghalaya, and North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), along with representatives from start-ups and civil society organizations. It aimed to strengthen the understanding and implementation of emerging technologies in alignment with the Digital Meghalaya vision and national missions such as the Digital India Programme and INDIAai.