

PRESS RELEASE

Electronic Payments and Receipts in Government

State & Regional Level Awareness and Consultative Workshop

Hyderabad, Telangana

Taj Vivanta

February 16, 2017

A State and Regional level workshop on "Electronic Government Payments and Receipts (EPR) in Government" was held today (February 16, 2017), in Hyderabad, Telangana State. Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of Telangana inaugurated the regional workshop organised by National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India in collaboration with Centre for Digital Financial Inclusion (CDFI) at Institute For Financial Management and Research (IFMR).

The Hyderabad workshop is the second in the series of Regional Level Awareness and Consultative workshops to be organised on Electronic Payments and Receipts (EPR) in Government. Mr. S K Sultania, Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Telangana; Mr. Krishnan Dharmarajan, Executive Director, CDFI; Mr. Sanjay Bondye, Vice President, National Institute for Smart Governance (NISG), and Mr. Kamal Jain, Senior General Manager, NeGD were part of the Inaugural Session.

Telangana Finance Secretary, Mr. Sultania during his inaugural address noted: "Standardization of products to create digital payment platforms is critical, as availability of too many choices leads to confusion at the end user level." He said, all payments by Telangana Government are made through digital payment platforms.

He informed the participants that: "More than 150 villages of Telangana have been enabled with cashless ecosystem. However, sustained behaviour change is the real challenge in ensuring adoption of cashless transactions." He pointed out that the plan is to have a Point of Sale (PoS) machine for all e-Sewa Kendras in the State.

During his address, CDFI Executive Director, Mr. Krishnan, said: "The plan for enabling digital payment is already in place." The proposal to enable 2.5

lakh Panchayats with connectivity through the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN), investments in Aadhaar infrastructure and initiatives like the digital locker, he said, are all steps in that direction.

Mr. Krishnan talked about use of innovative & intuitive technologies; standardized and integrated systems; technology tracking different stages of adoption; building capacities; and quality of connectivity as key success factors.

The Inaugural session followed with panel discussions on the following topics:

1. Central Level Initiatives on Electronic Payments & Receipts & Digital Payment Security moderated by Mr. Kamal Jain, SGM, NeGD.
2. Initiatives from Payment Aggregators moderated by Mr. Krishnan Dharmarajan, Executive Director, CDFI.
3. Panel Discussion on State Level Initiatives for Electronic Payments and Receipts moderated by Mr. Sridhar Dorairaj, General Manager, NISG.

During the first panel, Mr. Raimon Jose, VP Information Technology, NPCI shared the solutions around EPR from NPCI, while Mr. Nirmal Pattnayak, Asst. General Manager, RBI talked about the RBI initiatives, and its role as a regulator in enabling EPR. Mr. V. Chinnasami, Scientist D, CERT-IN highlighted the importance of digital payment security in EPR framework.

The second panel moderated by Mr. Krishnan Dharmarajan, consisted of Mr. K. Rangachary, A.G.M. (IT&C), SBH; Ms. Hena Nalini, AGM, SBI; Mr. Mitra; and Mr. Debarshi Dutta, Business Leader, Government Services & Solutions - South Asia, MasterCard.

The last panel comprised of Mr. A. Babu, IAS, District Magistrate & Collector, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh; Mr. K.Bhaskar, IAS, District Magistrate & Collector, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh; Mr. Rahul Bojja, IAS, District Magistrate & Collector, Hyderabad, Telangana State; Mr Bala Krishnan Nair, Technical Director, SDU, Government Services & Solutions - South Asia, MasterCard; Shri Supriyo Ghosh, Director – PBI, Department of Posts, NIC Pune; and Shri G.T. Venkateswar Rao, Commissioner, EDS (eSeva), Telangana.

Today's workshop aimed at bringing all the stakeholders in Government Payments and Receipts ecosystem in Telangana on a common level of awareness about various solutions. Besides Telangana, representatives and officials from the other States including - Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka - also joined the regional workshop at Hyderabad.

Over 200 registrations were recorded at the workshop. The workshop series was planned after the success of the National Level Awareness Workshop on EPR in New Delhi on December 20, 2016 organised by MeitY with the support of CDFI.
