

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**Electronic Payments and Receipts in Government
State & Regional Level Awareness and Consultative Workshop
Guwahati, Assam
Taj Vivanta**

07 February, 2017

A State and Regional level workshop on "**Electronic Government Payments and Receipts (EPR) in Government**" was **held today** (07 February, 2017), in Guwahati, Assam. **Mr. Nitin Khare, Secretary IT**, Information Technology Department, Govt. of Assam inaugurated this first 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 Assam workshop is the first in the series of Regional level Awareness and Consultative workshops to be organised on Electronic Payments and Receipts (EPR) in Government. Sh. Nitin Khare, Secretary IT; Mr. Roy Mathew, Deputy Director, CDFI and Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, NeGD, Director NeGD were part of the Inaugural Session.

Assam Secretary IT, Mr Nitin Khare during his inaugural address noted, "There is a need to create the infrastructure to enable our citizens to access the services on the EPR platform. We are working on strengthening the capacity of the State to ensure digital payment systems work seamlessly." He also pointed out, that, a beginning has been made through capacity building workshops, and that we need to put an implementation framework to achieve the defined objectives.

Mr Roy Mathew, during his opening address said, "Each citizen interfacing department should aim to get on-board on the EPR platform. The private sector has already done its bit; it is time for state governments to utilise this moment as an opportunity to offer electronic payments and receipts. Interoperability, ease of usage and cost of deployment should be focused on as we design and offer digital products."

The Inaugural session followed with a panel discussion on **Central level initiatives of Electronic Payments & Receipts** moderated by **Shri Kamal Jain, Sr. General Manager, NeGD**. The panel comprised of **Shri Chittaranjan Sawaijam**, Technology Consultant, NeGD PMU, MeitY; **Shri Rajesh Prasad**,

Head, Product Management, NPCI; and **Shri Nirmal Pattnayak**, Asst. General Manager, RBI.

Panelist from the MeitY informed the participants that the PayOnline, which is an online platform, is in process of being rolled out by MeitY to enable States to onboard their services on digital payments systems. NPCI representative said that there is a need for better understanding of the digital payment ecosystem by State level stakeholders since the onus of spearheading the digital payment services lies with them in the States.

Following the first panel discussion, a presentation was made by **Shri Jay Verdhan Tiwari, Scientist C**, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) under MeitY on Security Guidelines on Government Payments and Receipts. Two more panel discussions were conducted on the topics: **Initiatives from Payment Aggregators** and **State Level Initiatives for Electronic Payments & Receipts**.

Today's workshop aimed at bringing all the stakeholders in Government Payments and Receipts ecosystem in Assam and other northeast States of India on a common level of awareness about various solutions. Besides Assam, representatives and officials from the other Northeast States including - Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura - also joined the regional workshop at Guwahati. Over 110 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 Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the support of CDFI. MeitY has introduced several initiatives at national level for immediate adoption of electronic modes payments and receipts.