

**ADDRESS BY V. SRINIVAS, SECRETARY DARPG AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA**

DATED 23rd January, 2023

Respected Shri Eknath Shinde Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Smt. Sujata Saunik ji, Additional Chief Secretary, Maharashtra, Shri. Parrag Jaiin Nainutia ji, Principal Secretary, IT, Government of Maharashtra, Senior Officials from Government of Maharashtra, Central Government/State Governments

On behalf of DARPG and Government of India, I wish to thank Shri Eknath Shinde ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra for supporting the strong collaboration between DARPG and Government of Maharashtra in Administrative Reforms and Good Governance. I would also like to thank Smt Sujata Saunik ji for her tireless commitment to make the collaboration successful. Special thanks to Shri S.S.Kshatriya ji who visited DARPG in November 2022 with the proposed collaboration and invited DARPG delegation to Mumbai in December 2022. Thanks to their leadership role, DARPG has commenced the first Regional Conference of 2023 with focus on e-Governance.

2. In pursuance of the meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in December 2022, the DARPG and Government of Maharashtra formulated a multi-pronged action plan for implementing "Next Generation Administrative Reforms" in the State of Maharashtra.

The action plan envisages

- i. A Regional Conference on e-Governance in Mumbai where the best practices in e-Governance and e-Services delivery can be presented by award winners, academicians and industry captains to enable widespread dissemination and adoption.
- ii. Adoption of e-Office version 7.0 and the Initiative for Increasing Efficiency in Decision Making through delayering, delegation and digitization
- iii. The updation of the Manual of Office Procedure to enable the creation of a Digital Secretariat,
- iv. Documentation of the best Governance practices and administrative innovations
- v. Formulation of a District Good Governance Index

4. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Chief Minister that several rounds of meetings have been held between Government of India and Government of Maharashtra and considerable progress have been achieved in each of these areas. Some of the developments will be presented in this Regional Conference.

5. Maharashtra is amongst the most advanced States of India with a strong governance model, strong Secretariat structures and Districts where Officers have stood for innovation and commitment. The Good Governance Index recognizes Maharashtra's strong performance in Agriculture & Allied Sector, Commerce & Industry, Public Infrastructure & Utilities, Social

Welfare and Development, Judiciary and Public Safety. Maharashtra stands ahead of Indian States in the 58 parameters across 10 sectors.

6. One of the objectives of the Regional Conference is to translate Government of Maharashtra's core strengths in Governance into e-Governance to enable Digital Transformation of Institutions and Digital Empowerment of Citizens. It is expected that the deliberations in this Regional Conference will enhance the role of technology-based governance in bringing citizens and government closer.

7. The other important National objectives of the Regional Conference are (a) Effective Implementation of NeSDA 2021 recommendations to create a movement for saturation of 56 mandatory e-Services and bring uniformity in e-Services offered by States, (b) to enable the creation of Digital Institutions - State Secretariats by adoption of e-Office (c) Strengthen the linkages between the Startup industry, academics and Government. Strengthened State Portals and Service Portals will enable the seamless transformation to a Digitally Empowered Citizen and a Digitally Transformed Nation. The Sessions curated over the next 2 days have been formulated to achieve these broad objectives.

8. Over the next two days, 31 presentations will be made in 9 sessions making it one of the largest Regional Conference held by DARPG. Dr. Srivatsa Krishna, Principal Secretary, Administrative Reforms, Government of Karnataka will chair the session – I on “Start-ups and Good Governance”, Dr. S. N. Tripathi, DG IIPA, will chair the Session - II on "e-Governance Awarded Initiatives”, Shri Amar Nath, Additional Secretary, DARPG will chair Session III on “e-Governance Awarded Initiatives”, Shri S Chockalingam, DG YASHADA will chair Session IV on “Best Practices in Government of Maharashtra” and Session IX on “Data Driven Governance”, Shri Swadheen Kshatriya former Chief Secretary Maharashtra will chair Session V on ‘Digital Institutions – Digital Secretariats, Shri Sandeep Singhal and Shri Sanjay Vijaykumar will chair Session VI on “Startups in e-Governance”, Shri Abhishek Singh, CEO NeGD will chair Session VII on ‘e-Service Delivery in States, and Shri J.R.K.Rao CEO NISG will chair Session VIII on NeSDA – Way forward.

9. The Minister of State for Personnel, PG and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh ji and Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis ji will address a Plenary Session on Day 2.

10. It is expected that the knowledge and information that would be shared during the 2-day conference would help the participants replicate the best practices in their respective states on the basis of local requirements. Let me once again welcome all the Speakers and Delegates to DARPG's first Regional Conference of 2023, and thank Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra for his support in conduct of this Conference.

Jai Hind.

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