

Visakhapatnam Declaration Charts Roadmap for India's Digital Transformation

Civil Service Transformation, AI, and Inclusive Growth at Core of Visakhapatnam Declaration on e-Governance

DARPG Secretary V. Srinivas Launches National e-Governance Awards 2026 Website, Stresses Replication of State-Level Digital Models at NCeG Valedictory

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Visakhapatnam, Sept 23: The 28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG), co-hosted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, concluded in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday with the adoption of the "Visakhapatnam Declaration." The two-day conference outlined a forward-looking strategy to advance India's e-Governance agenda.

At the valedictory session, Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), lauded the Government of Andhra Pradesh for successfully hosting the conference outside the state capital after many years, terming it one of the most substantive e-Governance gatherings in recent times. He highlighted the wide participation from 18 ministries, states and union territories, and congratulated the winners of the National e-Governance Awards 2025. From the dais, he also launched the official website for the National e-Governance Awards 2026. Expressing gratitude to the officers and partner institutions who worked for over a year to make the event possible, Shri Srinivas underlined Andhra Pradesh's innovative governance practices, including real-time governance and WhatsApp-based service delivery, as models worth replicating nationally.

Centered on the theme "Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation," the conference reaffirmed the national vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" and the principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance." Delegates stressed that emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain, GIS, IoT, and Data Analytics must serve as enablers of transparent, sustainable, and citizen-focused governance. Ensuring cybersecurity, digital trust, and resilience in safeguarding critical infrastructure was highlighted as a national priority.

The declaration called for a whole-of-government approach to strengthen civil services with digital competencies and agile, data-driven frameworks. It proposed scaling up AI-driven platforms like Digital India BHASHINI, Digi Yatra, and NADRES V2 to deliver multilingual, real-time, and sector-specific citizen services with a focus on ethical and transparent adoption of AI.

Delegates emphasized replicating and scaling successful projects such as SAMPADA 2.0 in Madhya Pradesh, eKhata in Bengaluru, Rohini Gram Panchayat in Maharashtra, and the Drone Analytics Monitoring System (DAMS) by NHAI as proven models for technology-led service delivery. The declaration also underlined the need to extend digital governance to regions facing connectivity challenges, particularly the North-East and Ladakh, by enhancing coverage of mandatory e-Services under the NeSDA framework.

At the grassroots level, Panchayat models from Rohini, West Majlishpur, Suakati, and Palsana will be expanded nationwide, while digital literacy initiatives for women, youth, and marginalized communities aim to promote inclusivity. Robust measures, including Zero-Trust architecture, post-quantum security, and AI-enabled monitoring systems, were identified as essential to building cyber resilience across sectors such as transport, defence, and citizen service platforms.

The declaration also committed to accelerating the rollout of the National Agri Stack to provide farmers with better access to credit, advisories, and markets while encouraging climate-smart and sustainable farming practices.

Looking ahead, the conference pledged to strengthen collaboration between government, industry, academia, start-ups, and civil society to co-create scalable digital solutions. It also endorsed Andhra Pradesh's vision of positioning Visakhapatnam as a premier IT and innovation hub by investing in infrastructure, developing special IT zones, and supporting industry-academia partnerships.

The Visakhapatnam Declaration sets the tone for India's digital governance strategy over the coming years, with an emphasis on inclusivity, security, and innovation to empower citizens and strengthen service delivery.

The session also saw participation of Smt. Sarita Chauhan, Joint Secretary, DARPG, who read out the Visakhapatnam Declaration; Shri S.N. Tripathi, Director General, Indian Institute of Public Administration; and Shri K. Bhaskar, Secretary, IT, E&C, Government of Andhra Pradesh, who shared their closing remarks.





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