



Digital India State Consultation Workshop Organized in UP | Uttar Pradesh | 04 Dec 2024

Why in News?

The [National e-Governance Division \(NeGD\)](#) of the [Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology \(MeitY\)](#), in partnership with [Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation Ltd. \(UPDESCO\)](#), organized a [Digital India State Consultation Workshop](#) in Lucknow.

Key Points

- **Aim of the Workshop:**
 - Raising awareness about [Digital India initiatives](#).
 - Identifying opportunities for state IT projects to leverage Digital India platforms.
 - Showcasing successful projects for potential replication.
 - Facilitating knowledge sharing, exchange of ideas, and industry partnerships.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - The event highlighted the **importance of data and digital infrastructure** and urged the state to enhance connectivity for last-mile digital penetration.
 - The workshop's uniqueness in bringing together state officials and e-District Managers to collaboratively work towards [good governance](#) was emphasised.
 - Discussions centered on national initiatives under the **Digital India Programme** including:
 - **Digilocker:** [DigiLocker](#) allows **access to digital versions of various documents** including driver's licenses, vehicle registration certificates and academic mark sheets.
 - **Entity Locker:** EntityLocker is a flagship initiative designed to **empower organizations by providing a secure, cloud-based platform** for storing, sharing, and verifying digital documents and certificates.
 - **API Setu:** [API Setu](#) addresses the fear/risk of [Covid-19](#) infections and will help the people, businesses and the economy to return to normalcy.
 - **OpenForge:** It is Government of India's platform for open collaborative development of e-governance applications. Its objective is to **promote sharing and reuse of e-governance application** source code.
 - **myScheme:** It is a National Platform that aims to offer **one-stop search and discovery of the Government schemes**.
 - **UMANG:** The [UMANG](#) mobile app is an **all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app**. It provides access to high-impact services of various organizations of the Union and States.
 - **UX4G:** It aims to **make digital services user-friendly** by providing personalized, visually appealing, efficient, and accessible interfaces.
 - Key topics like [Cyber Security](#) and Capacity Building were also addressed.
 - State-led discussions featured CM Helpline (1076), [Inspector General of Registration and Stamps \(IGRS\)](#), [UIDAI Ecosystem](#), and [Aadhaar Authentication Services](#).
- **Open Discussions:**
 - A collaborative session was held between MeitY and Uttar Pradesh government officials.
 - During the session **key challenges and implementation issues in e-Governance projects** were discussed.
 - Feedback and suggestions were sought for resolving obstacles and improving project

execution.

National e-Governance Division (NeGD)

- **About:**
 - The NeGD was **established in 2009 by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** as an Independent Business Division under the **Digital India Corporation**.
- **Role and Responsibilities:**
 - NeGD supports MeitY in **managing and implementing e-Governance projects** across the country.
 - It **provides technical and advisory assistance** to Central and State Ministries, Departments, and other government organizations.
- **Key Operational Areas:**
 - **Programme Management:** Ensures smooth execution of e-Governance projects.
 - **Project Development:** Develops initiatives to enhance digital governance.
 - **Technology Management:** Oversees technological aspects of e-Governance projects.
 - **Capacity Building:** Strengthens skills and capabilities within government organizations.
 - **Awareness and Communication:** Promotes e-Governance initiatives under the Digital India Programme.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage of Mahabharata Age | Uttar Pradesh | 04 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, an update is seen on the conservation and development of the **protected site in Hastinapur, Meerut**, which was designated as **one of the five 'Iconic Sites'** by the Union Government in 2021-22, under the management of the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#).

Key Points

- **History:**
 - Hastinapur was the **capital of the Pandavas and Kauravas** during the **time of the Mahabharata**.
 - The site is associated with many places from the Mahabharata, including **Vidurr Tila, Pandaveshwar Temple, Baradri, Draunadeshwar Temple, Karna Temple, Draupadi Ghat, and Kama Ghat**.
- **Excavations:**
 - **B. B. Lal**, the Director General of the ASI, **conducted excavations at Hastinapur in the early 1950s**.
 - He **found correlations between the Mahabharata and the material remains** he unearthed, which led him to historicize some of the traditions in the epic.
- **Iron objects:**
 - The site has many **iron objects** that date **from the 6th century BCE to the 16th century CE**.
 - The excavated slag samples indicate that the site was involved in **crucible carburization activities**.
 - Crucible carburization is a **process that uses a crucible to heat wrought iron with carbon-rich materials to create steel**.

- **Recent work:**

- The ASI has **conducted excavations** at the site **in 2021-22 and 2022-23**.
- The site has also undergone **conservation and development work**, including the **construction of pathways, parking, and gardens**.

Five Iconic Sites

- **Dholavira:**

- An archaeological site with a water system that was **used for rainwater harvesting**. The people who lived there during the Harappan civilization are known for their water conservation techniques.

- **Hastinapur:**

- A historical and cultural site in the **Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh**. It was the **capital of the Kuru dynasty** emperors in the Mahabharata.

- **Sivasagar:**

- A town in **Upper Assam known for its Ahom palaces and monuments**. It was the capital of the **Ahom Kingdom** from 1699 to 1788.

- **Adichanallur:**

- An archaeological site from south India with a history dating back to 2500 BC-2200 BC. In 2004, **human skeletons of varying ethnicities were unearthed** here.

- **Rakhigarhi:**

- Rakhigarhi in Haryana's **Hissar district** is one of the **most prominent and largest sites of the Harappan civilisation**. It is one among the five known townships of the Harappan civilisation in the Indian subcontinent.

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