

Delhi Govt. leveraging technology to provide better livelihood, improved transportation and enhanced quality of life in the city

Delhi IT Secretary urges industry to partner with city Govt. to bridge the digital divide

NEW DELHI, October 9, 2015. The Delhi Government is seeking to transform the national capital into ‘Digital Delhi’ by leveraging technology to provide better livelihood, improved transportation and enhanced quality of life, stated **Mr. Adarsh Shastri, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information & Technology, Government of NCT Delhi**, while delivering his keynote address on ‘**Digital Delhi – Digital Roadmap**’ at **FICCI’s Smart Cities Summit 2015**.

Mr. Shastri said that the state government’s vision was to ensure quick, scalable and robust solutions to improve the city on all fronts. Delhi government had initiated many programmes in this regard, and one of them was to enable 11 districts of Delhi electronically. He added that there were about 219 firms in Delhi which were needed by the citizens at some of point, hence the government started the process of making these firms online and so far 24 of them have become available online.

Mr. Shastri said that transport was another area, where the government was trying to leverage technology and internet to provide a single access card to pay for all modes of public transport be it bus, metro, cabs and so on. Also, efforts were being made to create an app which would provide information in real time about various options available to reach a destination from a particular location and also the details of the time and cost that each mode of transport would incur.

Sharing his views on public Wi-Fi, **Mr. Shastri said** that Delhi needs a unique model as the scale was humungous with almost six million users expected to be using public Wi-Fi on a daily basis. Internet was an empowering tool and the challenge was to make it accessible to those who are not connected. Internet would allow equal opportunity to all. Hence, to bridge the digital divide in Delhi, partnership between the government and industry was the need of the hour.

Mr. Shastri said that augmented use of technology would help in delayering and demystifying the complicated government processes. Referring to the passport services, he said that earlier it took almost 17 months to receive a passport through general category and almost three months via tatkal and many middlemen were involved in the process. But after TCS took over the passport services, with the application of technology, services were made available online and now it takes three months for a passport to be issued in general category and 11 days via tatkal. He added that this example demonstrates how technology can help in the elimination of middlemen and corruption and provide speedy public services to the citizens.

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