

Government of India  
Ministry of Rural Development  
Department of Land Resources

**Action Plan for promoting Digital modes of financial transactions**

1. For promoting **overall efficiency** and **accountability** in the system, the use of **digital modes** for the various financial transactions should be to the **maximum possible** extent, as may be **appropriate** and **feasible**. The various digital options available include:

(i) For people who do not have mobile phones, Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) makes it possible to transact with Aadhaar based authentication. Prepaid/debit cards and Banking correspondents also provide the required services.

(ii) For people having generic phones, USSD (\*99#) facilitates digital transactions on mobile phones through SMS.

(iii) For smart phone holders, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) facilitates transactions through bank accounts.

(iv) For computer literate population, Net Banking is available.

2. The present status of use of digital options in the Department has been analysed, and it has been found that **all** payments in the Department are being made through **digital modes** *except* the following:-

(a) GPF subscriptions of out-borne officers are being made through cheque.

(b) Petty and unforeseen expenditure is being met through cash (for amounts below Rs. 5,000).

As regards receipts, **all** payments are being received through **digital modes** *except* the following:

(a) RTI fees through PO/DD/Cash

(b) Receipt of unspent balances from States / State-level agencies through cheque

3. For the two main programmes being run by the Department, viz. DILRMP and WDC-PMKSY, funds are being released to States / State-level agencies through the **PFMS**.

4. Regarding DILRMP, the State Governments will be requested to use digital modes wherever feasible, particularly in respect of registration of land / property in sub-registrar offices and in financial transactions in tehsil / district offices.

5. In WDC-PMKSY, implementation of PFMS has already been imbibed across the country. Out of 28 States (except Goa) where Watershed Development Projects are being implemented, 26 States have adopted the PFMS platform. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana use *electronic fund management system* (as adopted by the State Governments). Funds under the programme are released to State Governments. State Governments further release the funds together with the State share to the State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs). SLNAs further transfer funds to district and sub-district level agencies for implementation of the programme. Transfer of funds to SHGs and payments for goods and services and works and staff salaries are mostly being made using PFMS.

That payments to the endline individuals in the field should also be made using digital modes wherever feasible will be emphasized upon on the State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNAs).

The SLNAs will also be requested to get awareness generated through their field-functionaries at the ground level amongst the self-help groups and the general public in the project areas in the use of digital modes.

6. Employees of the Department are being sensitised to transact through digital modes. The publicity material supplied by NITI Aayog has already been distributed amongst them. It is also proposed to conduct specific awareness generation meets with them on a periodic basis. They will be encouraged and motivated to use the various digital modes more intensively wherever feasible as well as to propagate the same.

From the Department, **all** payments to officials are being made through **RTGS**, directly to their accounts.

7. **Note:** It is however also to suggest that while all out efforts to **maximise** the use of digital modes in financial transactions should go on kkon **continuing priority**, for accelerated and sustained results adequate measures should also be taken by the concerned authorities in respect of the following:

(a) to make the respective websites/digital platforms more secure as well as more user-friendly. In particular, special attention should be paid on preventing cyber fraud.

(b) for cases of fraud or misappropriation, a speedy and sure redressal mechanism with appropriate statutory cover should be simultaneously strengthened. [In particular, provisions to indemnify the affected person / victim (insurance, etc.) should be specifically considered in respect of the relative poor and the less literate.]

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