

Decentralisation

key word: Experts

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JAIPUR: A two day workshop on Media Capacity Building on Decentralised District planning concluded in Jaipur on a consensus note that Eleventh Five Year plan's focus on "inclusive growth" can be achieved only by putting local governments in the centre of local planning through the process of decentralization.

The tone of the workshop, attended by media persons from various parts of Rajasthan, was assertively set by chief minister, Ashok Gehlot, by agreeing that decentralized planning was an essential for participatory democracy.

Gehlot offered all possible state assistance for capacity building of media persons at the grassroots to make the decentralized planning process a reality in true spirit.

Asserting that the state government was taking concrete steps for facilitating decentralized planning process,

Rajasthan's Principal Secretary Planning, Rakesh Verma elaborated various measures taken by the administration to this effect and said the desert state was leading other states in this direction.

An innovative approach is being made in Tonk district showing as to how the idea of bottom up planning and convergence of resources can be effectively achieved, said RP Sharma, a UNICEF consultant and Advisor to Panchayati Raj Minister.

The Tonk Model would be replicated in other district as every step in the process of decentralization had been fine tuned, Sharma added. On the present scenario Governance advisor, UNDP, T R Raghunandan, said there was less governance and more patronage as the system wanted obedient participants. "There is a need for creating pedagogy content, technology for self paced learning as well as market for capacity building efforts".