



Smt. Vasundhara Raje  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan



**RAJASTHAN  
DIGIFEST KOTA**  
17-18 Aug 2017



**EXPLORE  
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES**



UIT Auditorium, Rangabari Road, Kota

[digifest.rajasthan.gov.in](http://digifest.rajasthan.gov.in)

## Background

Rajasthan, the cradle of entrepreneurship, is the birthplace of some of the most successful business persons and large industrial houses of India, some of whom also have a global footprint. In spite of such a legacy, educated youth in large numbers leave the state after completing their education in search of better employment opportunities in other parts of India and abroad.

Rajasthan also faces some serious challenges in areas like water availability, arid land, agriculture, rural healthcare, food processing and efficient food supply chains – answer to lot of these problems would need the development of low cost, indigenous and technology - enabled solutions. Towards this, the Rajasthan Startup Policy was formulated in 2015.

To build awareness of the various policy initiatives and to implement the provisions under the StartUp Policy, Rajasthan government plans to organise Digifests in different cities every few months. The 1st in this series was held in Kota on 17th-18th August. During the event Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a new start up platform called iStart, and several other new initiatives for the city of Kota and for the state of Rajasthan.

## About the event

**Venue:** UIT Auditorium, Balaji market, Rangbari road, Kota, Rajasthan - 324009

**Date:** 17 August 2017 - 18 August 2017

DoIT&C, Government of Rajasthan organized the 1st edition of Digifest at the education hub of the state, Kota. This 2-day Carnival of technology saw an incredible participation from startup and technology enthusiasts from across the state. The Government of Rajasthan has organized various competitions, workshops, sessions and IT Job Fair etc. all in one go. During the event Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje inaugurated iStart Rajasthan Stack DIGISTAN of India and Challenge for Change, among other new initiatives.

This new start up platform iStart (<http://istart.rajasthan.gov.in/>) would serve as a single point for registration, functioning, support and hand-holding for the startup firms as well as angel funding groups and venture capital funds.



## Key Highlights

**Hackathon 2.0** - A world class Hackathon event was organised where participants showcased their coding skills over a multi-hour non-stop coding competition. Coders, developers & designers were given a platform to use their cutting-edge technique and inventive methods on themes spread across sectors and industries. The top three winning teams signed a contract with Department of Information Technology & Communication, Government of Rajasthan worth Rs.15 Lacs, Rs.10 Lacs and Rs.7.5 Lacs respectively.



**Project Competition** - over 200 teams of technologists, startups and other enthusiasts presented their ideas out of which the best three were selected. The selected startups were awarded projects worth Rs 30 lakh. CM Smt. Vasundhara Raje also said that the project awards is most likely to cross Rs 1 crore in the future.

**Showcasing of e-Governance initiatives** - During Digifest, various state government departments also exhibited e-governance initiatives they had been undertaking. They had set up nearly 40 stalls exhibiting their initiatives. One of the reasons why some government programmes don't reach the intended beneficiaries is lack of awareness about when and how to avail those benefits. The idea was to make people aware of e-governance facilities that government provides.



**Investor pitch and Startup mentoring sessions** - the event gave a unique platform to startups and entrepreneurs by bringing them to one platform with funding agencies, mentors and other investors. Seminars like “Tricks and for a Good MVP”, “Get Your Venture Investor - Ready”, “New Era of a Startup” and “Sunrise Startups” got a huge audience and provided much needed knowledge to upcoming venture founders of the state.



## New launches at the Digifest

At the Kota Digifest, August 2017, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Smt. Vasundhara Raje launched several initiatives for startups and several other citizen-centric services to for the state. This includes:

- Announcement of setting up of a Rs 500-crore fund for promotion of startups in the state
- Launch of Startup platform iStart and launch of Startup ranking system Qrate
- Launch of Challenge for change
- Launch of Rajasthan Stack
- Dedication of Kota Clean Energy Network - Kota became the first city in the state where city-based gas distribution system has been launched



## Keynote speakers

Eminent speakers from the IT, Startup & Financial industry joined the event and shared their thoughts on various subjects. Some of the prominent speakers at the event were:

- Abhishek Kakkar (91Springboard)
- Rajendra Mhalseker (Yes Bank)
- Anurag Jain (Cardekho)
- Ajay Data (Data Infosys)
- Arvind Singhatia (Ola)
- Smita Bhagat (HDFC)
- S. Rajesh (Reliance Jio)
- Vijay Rajan (SBI)
- Mr. Prajakt Raut (VC expert, Founder - Applyifi)

## Conclusion

Rajasthan Startup Policy 2015 is the torch bearing front-runner in order to strengthen the startup ecosystem across the state. The recently launched web portal for startups “iStart” will now kickstart this and bring everything under a single umbrella for the ease of each stakeholder in the startup ecosystem. The constant reforms and amplifications in the policy and portal are going to become the major driving forces in the inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Kota Digifest August 2017 was the 1st edition of Digifest in the state. The next Digifest should continue in the same vein providing opportunities to the young population to come up and showcase their talents at a grand stage and get a chance to meet and network with successful startup founders, investors and corporate giants.