Government Of India
Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation

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BUILDING DATA INFRASTRUCTURE FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

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INTRODUCTION

The appetite for data has never been stronger in our country. Evidence-based decision making isn't just policy rhetoric anymore. It's becoming the operating standard. Teams across ministries and states are building analytical capabilities, investing in tools, developing expertise. The demand for official statistics reflects a maturing governance ecosystem where numbers drive action.

But this growing sophistication in data use has also revealed a gap. Comprehensive, official, reliable data exist, yet accessing it often requires downloading massive files, converting formats, cleaning and restructuring, building connections manually. By the time analysis ready data becomes available, hours have passed, sometimes days. The question isn't about data quality or commitment to evidence. It's about infrastructure keeping pace with ambition.

The National Statistics Office has just closed that gap with the launch of its Model Context Protocol (MCP) Server for its eSankhyiki portal.

This week, NSO launched the beta version of its Model Context Protocol server for the eSankhyiki portal. The timing isn't coincidental as it arrives just ahead of the AI Impact Summit scheduled this month, but It's about solving a problem that's been slowing down work across ministries, state governments, and policy units for years.

MCP technology does something elegantly simple. It lets users connect directly with datasets through their own tools and applications. No downloads. No file conversions. No rebuilding connections every time you need updated figures.
Think of it as building a bridge instead of requiring everyone to swim across the river. It is when government data meets the tools people actually use.

WHAT THIS ACTUALLY MEANS

A policy researcher in anywhere in the country can now query employment statistics directly through AI analytical tools without downloading data or leaving its work environment. A district collector in Kerala can automate his monthly development reports to pull current figures as they're updated. Another team can integrate multiple datasets into their models without manually stitching files together.

The beta version includes seven data products covering economic and social indicators, with more coming as the system evolves. But the real story isn't about the number of datasets but it's about what happens when you remove friction of data access from the work.

Less time hunting for data means more time understanding what it tells us. Automated access means decisions can be based on current numbers, not last month's download. Integration with existing tools means teams don't have to abandon the systems they've already built and learned.

THE LARGER VISION

This initiative sits within one of the seven chakras of the AI summit namely Democratising AI. When official statistics become accessible through the tools people already use, when technical barriers between data and users disappear, when information flows freely to whoever needs it true democratisation of data happens in practice.

It's also a concrete step toward building the data infrastructure needed for **Viksit Bharat**. Strong governance requires strong information systems. Effective policy demands timely, accurate data. Evidence-based decision-making only works when evidence is actually available at the point of decision.

The MCP server makes government data fit into existing workflows rather than requiring workflows to bend around data access. That might sound like a technical detail, but it's the difference between data that gets used and data that gets cited in reports about why we need better data access.

WALKING THE TALK

What makes this launch noteworthy isn't just the technology, though MCP represents a genuine advance in how systems can share information. It's the demonstration of intent. NSO isn't waiting for perfect conditions or complete readiness across all datasets. They're launching with a set of important data products, learning from actual use, and planning to expand based on what works.

That approach recognizes something important. Innovation in government happens when agencies are willing to iterate in public, to put beta versions into real hands, to learn by doing rather than planning indefinitely.

The technical documentation is already online. Support systems are in place. Users can access the server through the eSankhyiki portal. The infrastructure is live and functional, not aspirational.

WHAT COMES NEXT

As more datasets come online and more users connect their tools, we'll learn what works and what needs adjustment. Some use cases we've anticipated. Others will emerge from creative applications we haven't imagined yet. That's the nature of infrastructure, once you build it, people find novel ways to use it that surprises. Already more than five use cases from dashboard to dynamic visualisation to data deep dive analysis have been created by the user and is in public domain.

For policymakers, the immediate takeaway is practical. Official statistics just became significantly easier to work with. Whether you're building evidence for your work, the data you need is now accessible through your existing analytical environment.
The broader implication runs deeper. When government data becomes genuinely accessible, when it flows seamlessly into the tools that drive decisions, we move closer to the kind of responsive, evidence-based governance that India's development trajectory demands.

This is infrastructure being built, one protocol at a time for supporting the cause of **Viksit Bharat.**

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