U.P. eDistrict Portal Re-design

Case Study
by Ankit Kumar



Challenge

The challenge basically was to redesign the UP e-district portal website. The goal was to improve the user experience on the current website so that the new version becomes more accessible, user-friendly, and aesthetically pleasing.

Project constraints

The constraint was that this is a government website and users have a fixed mental model for government websites. It was important not to make too many extreme makeovers or changes so that the trust remains intact, and users do not have to relearn how to use the website.

Role

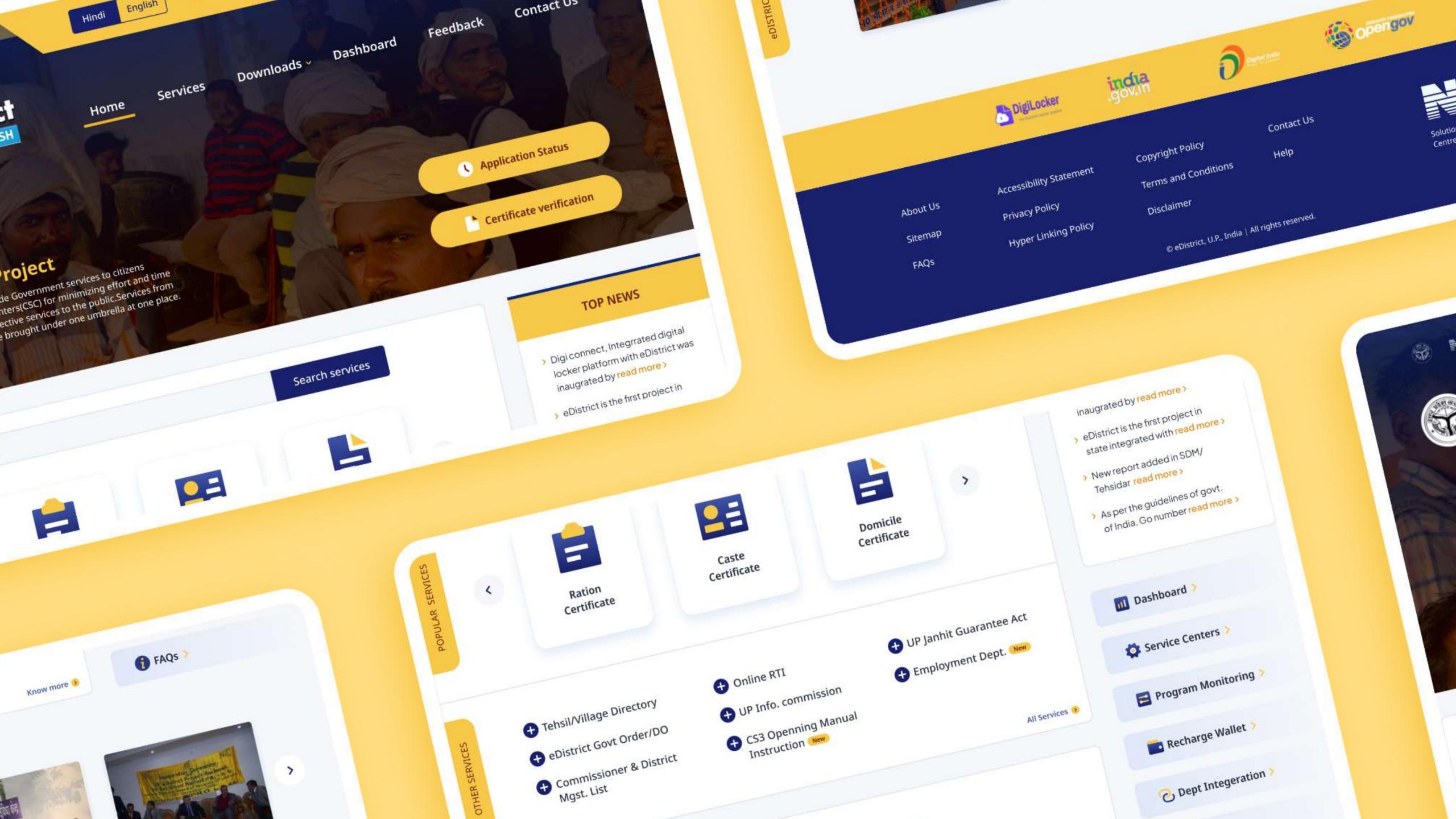
UI/UX Designer

Project Duration

2 Days [16th March-18th March]

eDistrictCurrent Design





Goals

- ▼ To improve the user experience and website navigation
- Better educate the user about the services offered by eDistrict
- Enhance the Visual design with proper accessibility
- Decrease the cognitive load
- Increase the trust

Why is there a need to re-design?

The current website design is outdated and may not meet the needs of modern users. It may be challenging to navigate, unappealing, and it may not be designed with the user's needs in mind, leading to a confusing user experience and a lack of accessibility



Before starting the design,

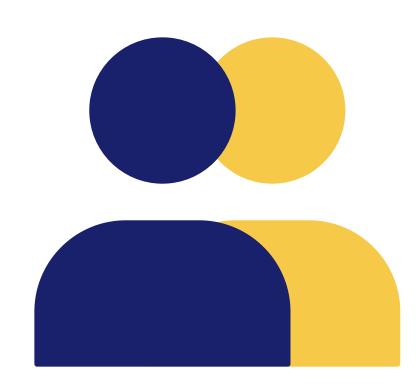
I needed to conduct user-centric research, which required me to understand the needs and problems of the target users. To do this, I first identified user segments.

Target users

- Citizens of UP from different backgrounds & professions.
- Primary Age 18+, secondary users can be students and young adults
- Users need services related to birth and death certificates, land records, pension schemes, scholarships

User segments

- Citizens
- Businesses



UX evaluation on the basic of Heuristic laws,

After understanding the current user behavior, I needed to evaluate the website portal. I analyzed and evaluated the user experience of the current e-district website based on Jakob Nielsen's heuristic criteria and drew insights to identify opportunities for UX improvements.

User control and freedom

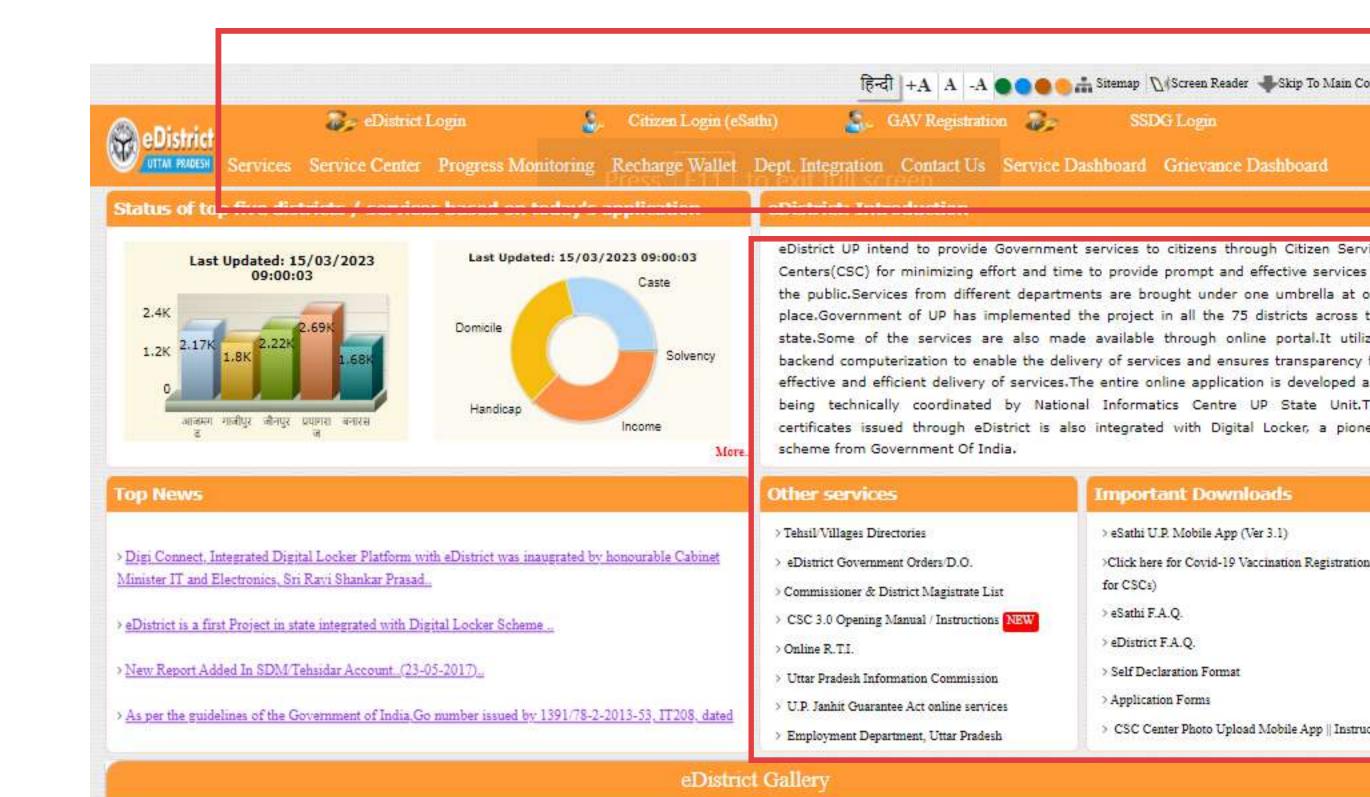


- Difficult to navigate, making it hard for users to find the information they need.
 Homepage lacks clear hierarchy and structure.
- No quick links in footer

Consistency and standards



The website lacks consistency in terms of design and layout, and there are multiple design inconsistencies across homepage. eg, Typo, Color scheme, layouts and grids.



Recognition rather than recall



Single SERVICE menu should consist of all the services rather than confusing the user with so many options in the navigation bar wich adds up unnecessary cognitive load.

Based on users' mental models all the services can be grouped in one category

Aesthetic and Minimalist design



Too much redundant information on the homepage

Complex UI structure with no delightful experience





Match between system & real world



CTA buttons (Application status and certificate status) interaction prompts are not easily recognisable.

No clear visual and interaction cues

Help and documentation



The "Contact us" and "FAQs" section is present on the homepage and easily accessible.







Meet the users

Heuristic evaluation insights will help me improve the UX, but to understand how the website is actually working for real users and how users are feeling about it, I will need to base the decision on the users' needs. Then, I can provide UX solutions accordingly.



Vikrant is a small farmer who owns a small piece of land in a rural area of Uttar Pradesh. He wants to increase his agricultural productivity and yield by registering for government schemes and obtaining necessary licenses and permits.

Frustations

- Lack of familiarity with online processes and government websites
- Confusing navigation

Goals

 To access government services and information easily through the eDistrict Uttar Pradesh website

What does Vickey says, feel and thinks about the eDistrict portal?

I asked Vicky to perform a simple task on the e-district website, and under moderated conditions, I observed him. Then, through empathy mapping, I was able to understand how Vicky reacted to the product during the task.

What he saw?

- Cluttered homepage with so many options
- Confusing navigation menues
- Inconsistent & poor use of visual elements

What he felt?

- Frustated due to lack of heirarchy
- Can't find relevant service

What he thought?

- Dissappointed with the design
- Why all govt. website are so poor?

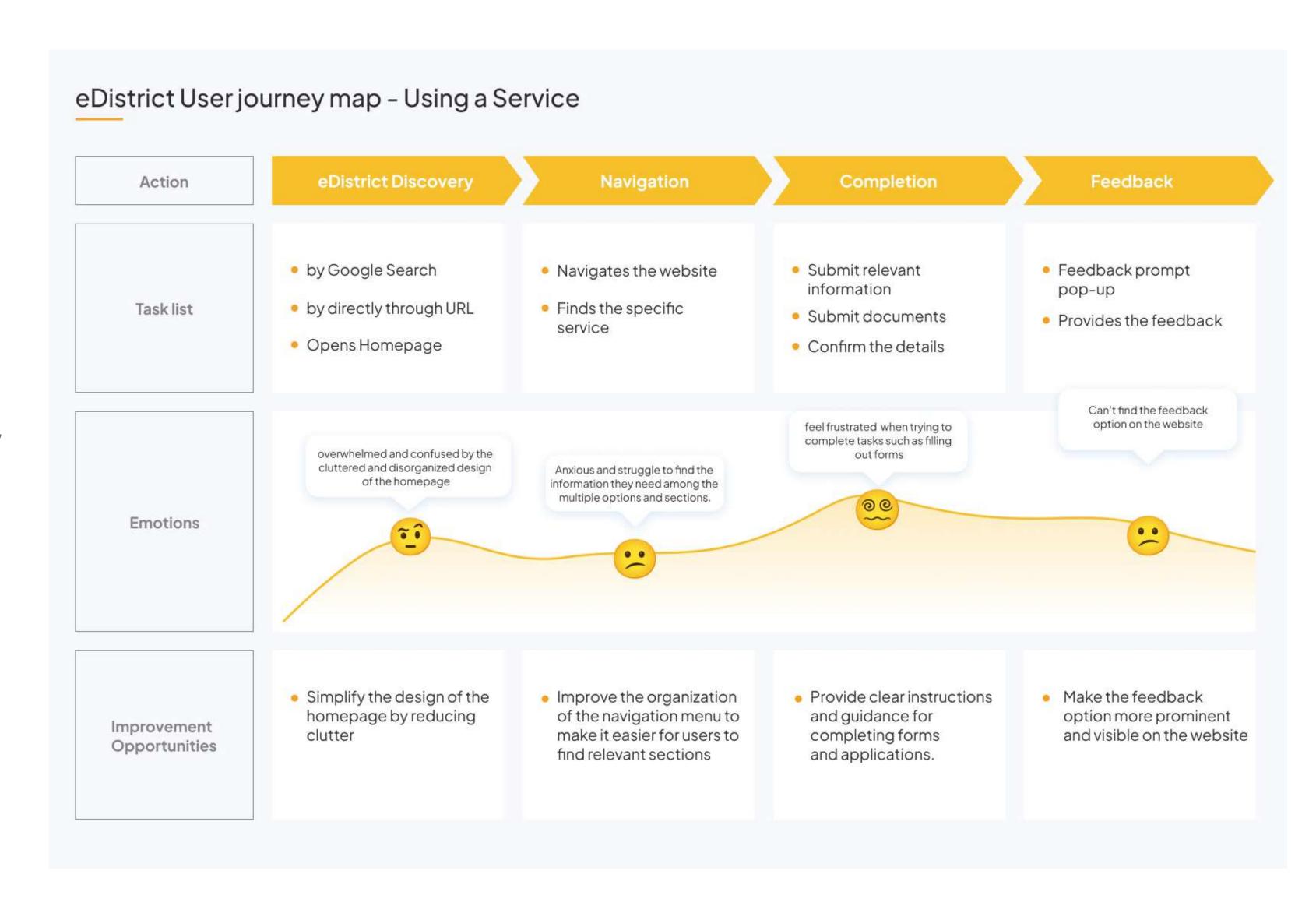
What he did?

Successfully applied for the service after spending a good amount of time & efforts on the website.



Understanding the current behaviour

- Users of the eDistrict Uttar Pradesh website are goal-oriented and are usually looking for specific information related to government services and schemes, such as eligibility criteria, application procedures, and required documents.
- The majority of users may not have digital literacy.



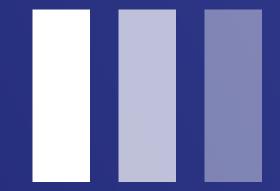
Visual Design Audit

After completing the UX research and based on user feedback, I arrived at the conclusion that there are numerous issues with the visual design of the e-district portal. To improve this, I had to conduct a design audit and combine its insights with my UX research to make it easier to define the problem statement.

So, I evaluated the eDistrict homepage on the basis of 6-pointers cheklist of visual design principles and gathered the insights.



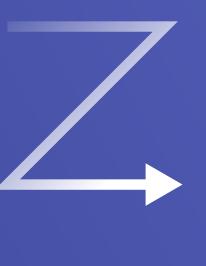
Audit Checklist



Consistency



Hierarchy



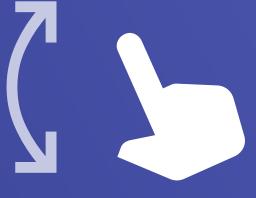
Navigation



Branding



Usability



Accessibility

Audit insights





Lack of visual hierarchy

- No importance on "Services"
- Whitespace missing
- Navigation is not intuitive
- Text heavy homepage
- CTAs and interaction cues are not prominant



Poor Branding

- Distorted brand logo
- Heavy Ugly banner
- Inconsistent visuals& layout
- No iconography system found for visual cues.

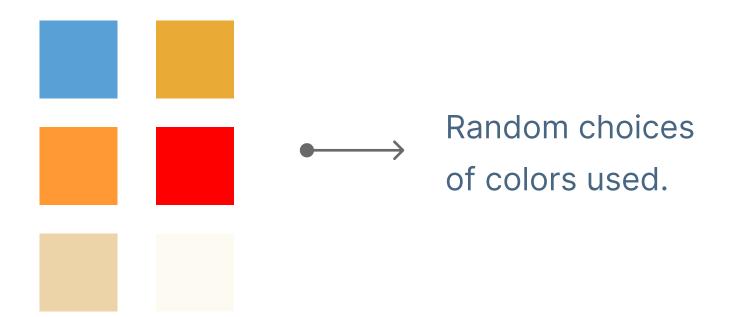




Absence of defined color scheme

- No defined color palette
- No primary/Secondary/Accent color choice to build visual hierarchy
- Color contrast issue
- **⊗** WCAG guidelines not followed

Current color scheme



Poor color contrast, difficulty to find relevant information quickly





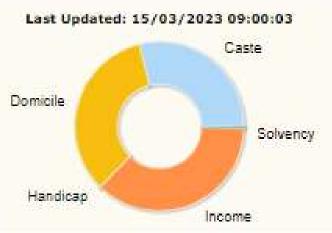
Inconsistent Typography

- No defined size and scaling
- More than 3 fonts have been used.
- Legibility issues due to compact and proximity of sections
- Lack of visual hierarchy

Different typeface or different sizes are used for every section making it difficult to build consistency and hierarchy



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eDistrict: Introduction

eDistrict UP intend to provide Government services to citizens through Citizen Service Centers(CSC) for minimizing effort and time to provide prompt and effective services to the public. Services from different departments are brought under one umbrella at one place. Government of UP has implemented the project in all the 75 districts across the state. Some of the services are also made available through online portal. It utilizes backend computerization to enable the delivery of services and ensures transparency for effective and efficient delivery of services. The entire online application is developed and being technically coordinated by National Informatics Centre UP State Unit. The certificates issued through eDistrict is also integrated with Digital Locker, a pioneer scheme from Government Of India.

Other services

> Tehsil/Villages Directories

- eDistrict Government Orders/D.O.
- > Commissioner & District Magistrate List
- > CSC 3.0 Opening Manual / Instructions NEW
- Online R.T.I.
- > Uttar Pradesh Information Commission
- U.P. Janhit Guarantee Act online services
- > Employment Department, Uttar Pradesh

Important Downloads

- > eSathi U.P. Mobile App (Ver 3.1)
- Click here for Covid-19 Vaccination Registration(Only for CSCs)
- > eSathi F.A.Q.
- eDistrict F.A.Q.
- > Self Declaration Format
- Application Forms
- CSC Center Photo Upload Mobile App | Instructions

Can't determine whether this is normal text or clickable interactive links.

This introduction paragraph is not one of the user's

priority needs and is taking up unnecessary homepage

space. It can be placed within the 'About Us' tab instead.

eDistrict Gallery















This scroll-up button is fixed and not moving alongwith the screen. To access it, one would have to scroll all the way down to the bottom and click on it

Organzing the research data into insights and defining the core problems

After completing the research part, I now need to gather the researched data and organize it in an insightful way to identify common problems or pain points.

- The homepage lacks clear hierarchy and structure, making it difficult for users to quickly locate the information they are looking for
- The navigation menu is inconsistent and lacks clear labeling and organization
- Heuristic evaulation score 1/6
 means bad UX

Understanding the user needs?

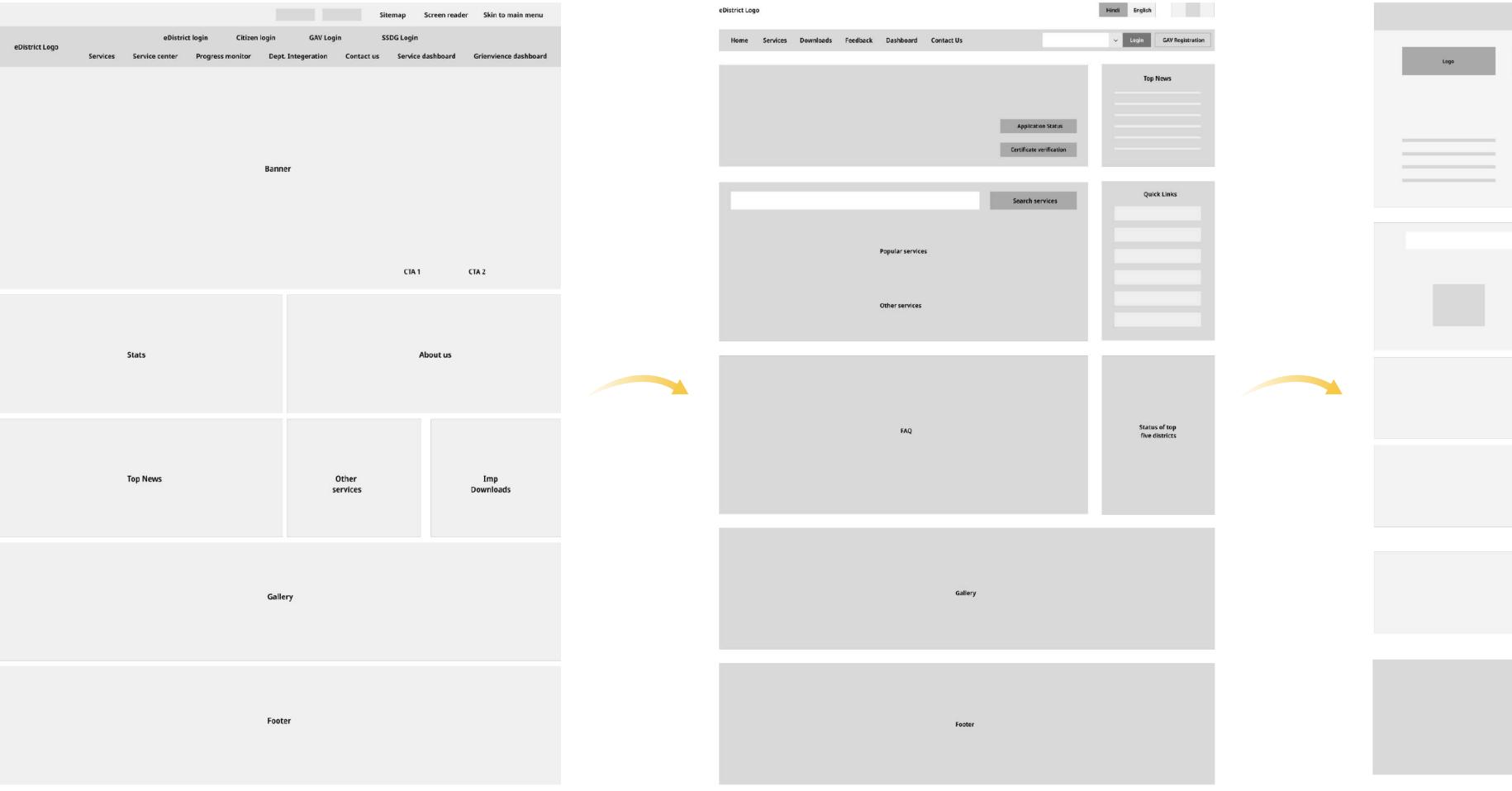
- As a user, I want a website design that is clean, uncluttered, and provides clear and concise information.
- As a user, I want to quickly complete the task on the website without any confusion and frustation.
- As Uttar Pradesh is a multilingual state, users may prefer a website that provides multiple language options.

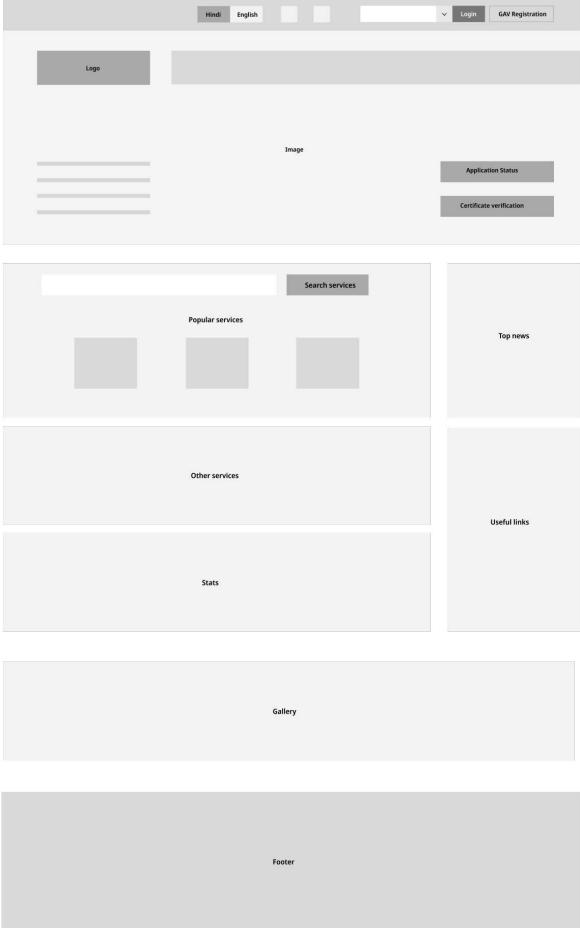
Redesign plan

Restructuring the layout and IA to enhance the UX

I approached to solve the pain points by improving the layout first then addressing the UX issues followed by visual design i.e typography, colors, iconography and grids & layouts.







Revamping the building blocks

Noto Sans

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Regular • Sem-bold • Bold

- Supports multiple languages
- Distinct & consistent letters
- Google's typeface

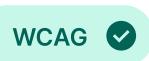
10px • Noto Sans

12px • Noto Sans

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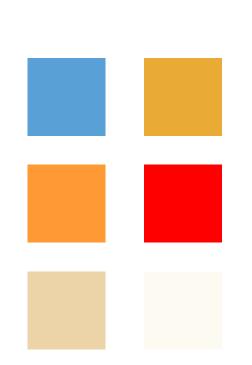
16px • Noto Sans

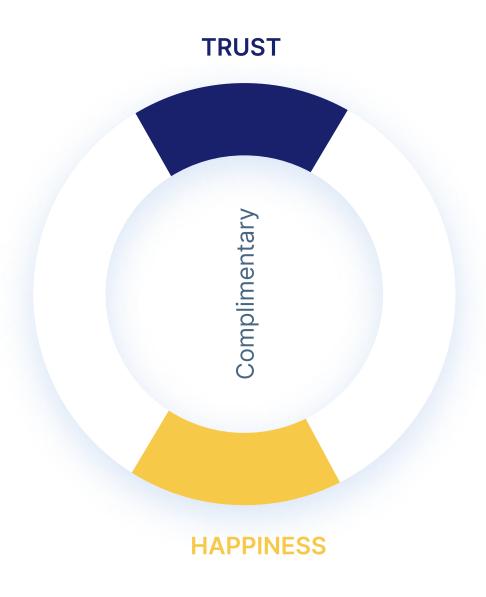
24px · Noto Sans

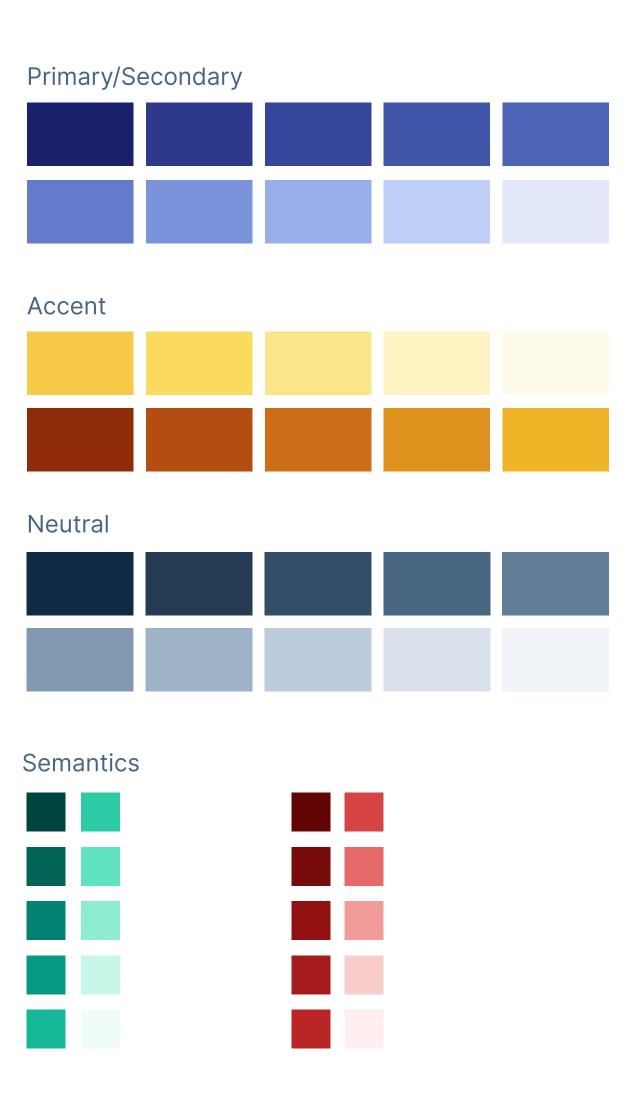


C O L O R S

I wanted to increase people's trust in the eDistrict website, so I chose blue as the primary color because it is associated with trust. For accent and call-to-action elements, I used a complimentary yellowish-orange color.



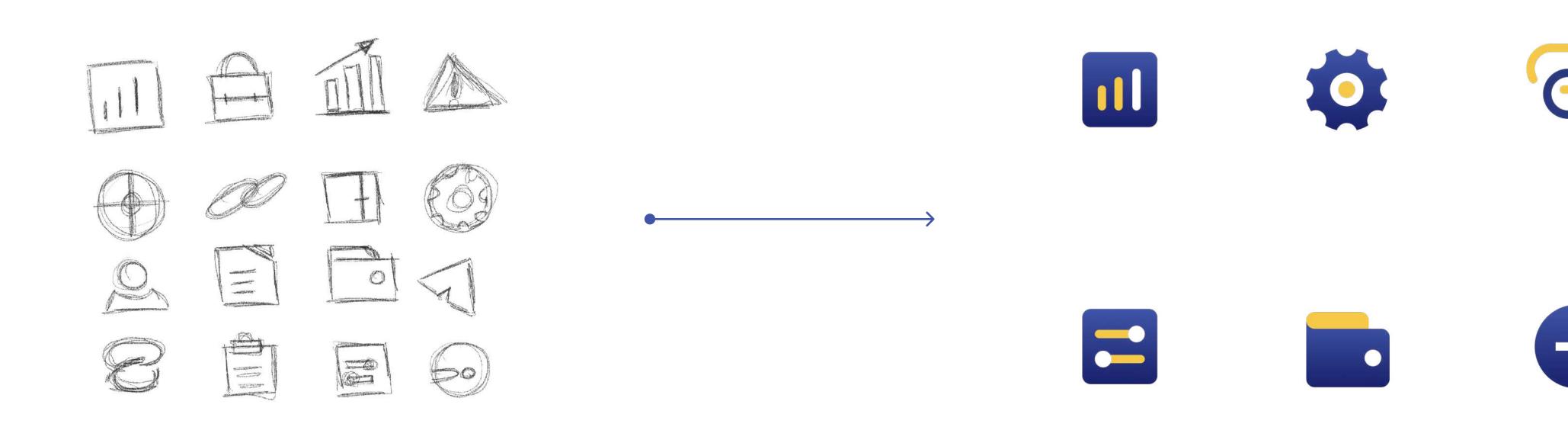




ICONOGRAPHY

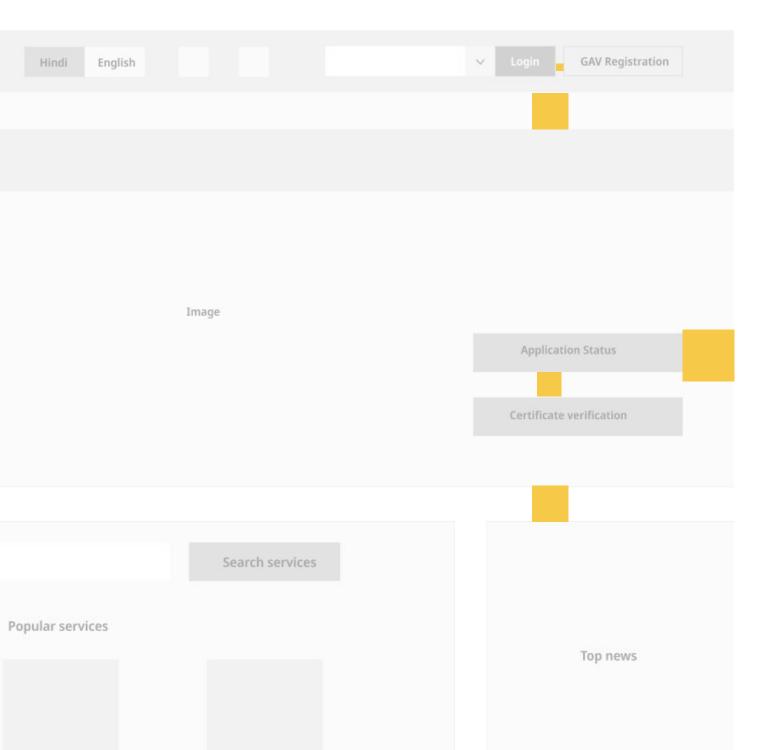
The edistrict website has not yet utilized any iconography for visual cues, but it is crucial to guide users through visual cues as it enhances the usability of the product and makes navigation easier.

So, I built a custom iconography set for the portal.

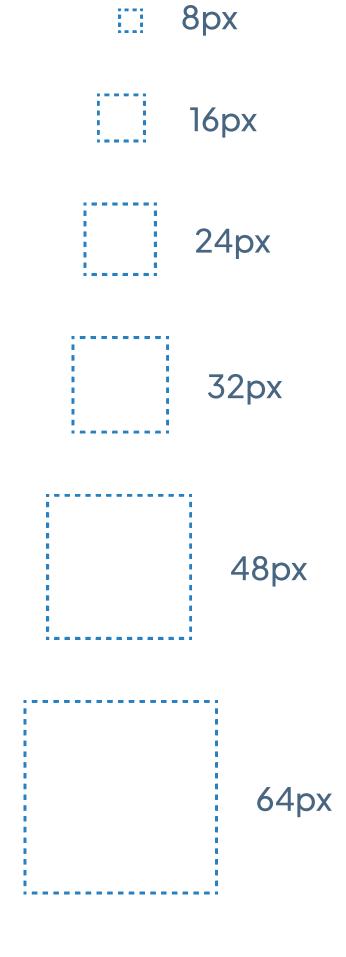


GRIDS & LAYOUT

I used 8pt soft grid to structure the layout that is easy for users to understand and navigate.



S P A C I N G



ELEVATIONS

O Opx 4px Static

O 4px 16px Clickable

O 4px 32px Clickable

Implementing solutions





Inconsistent login iconography

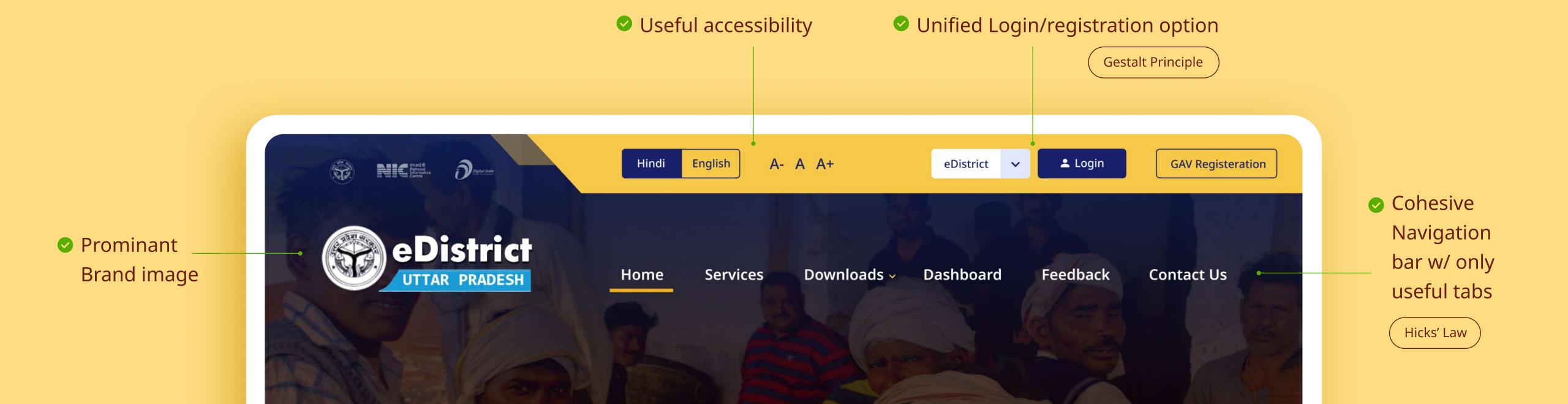
Confusing accessibility

Poor brand image

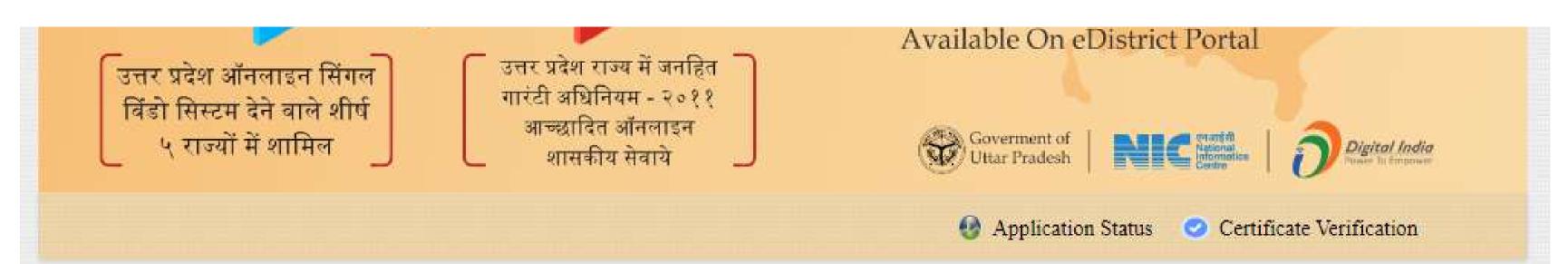


No visual hierarchy in Navigation bar

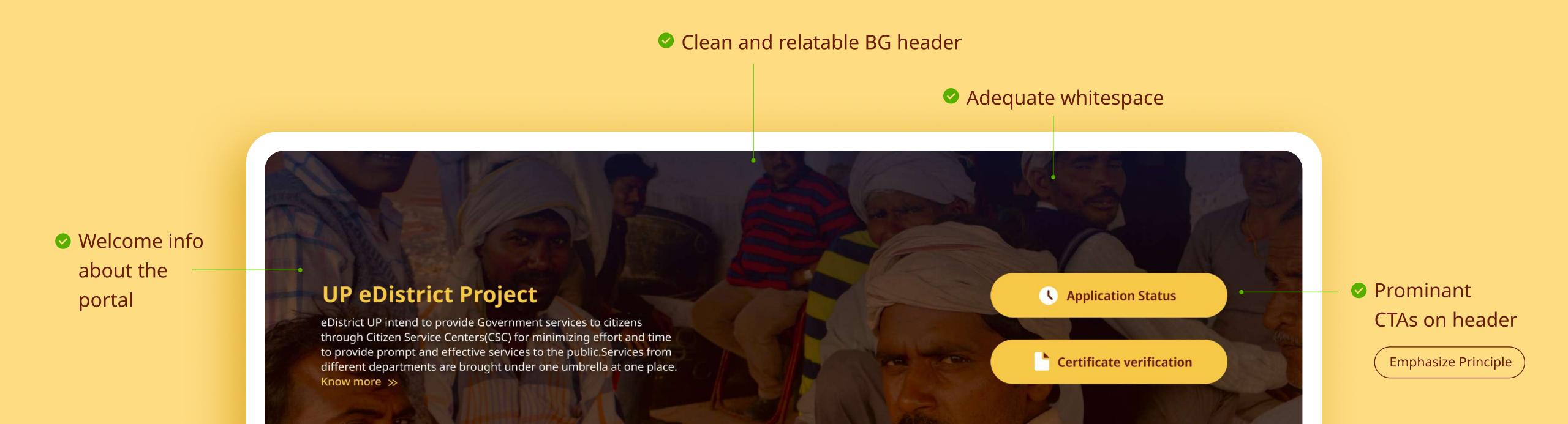
Cluttered with redundant options

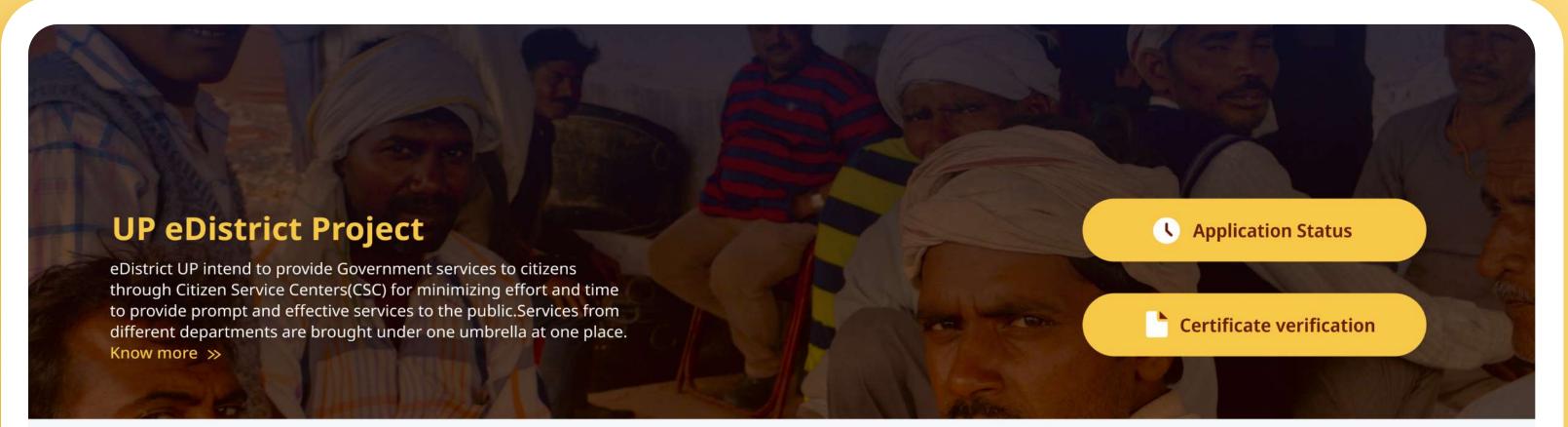


Cluttered header banner



CTAs are not visibile

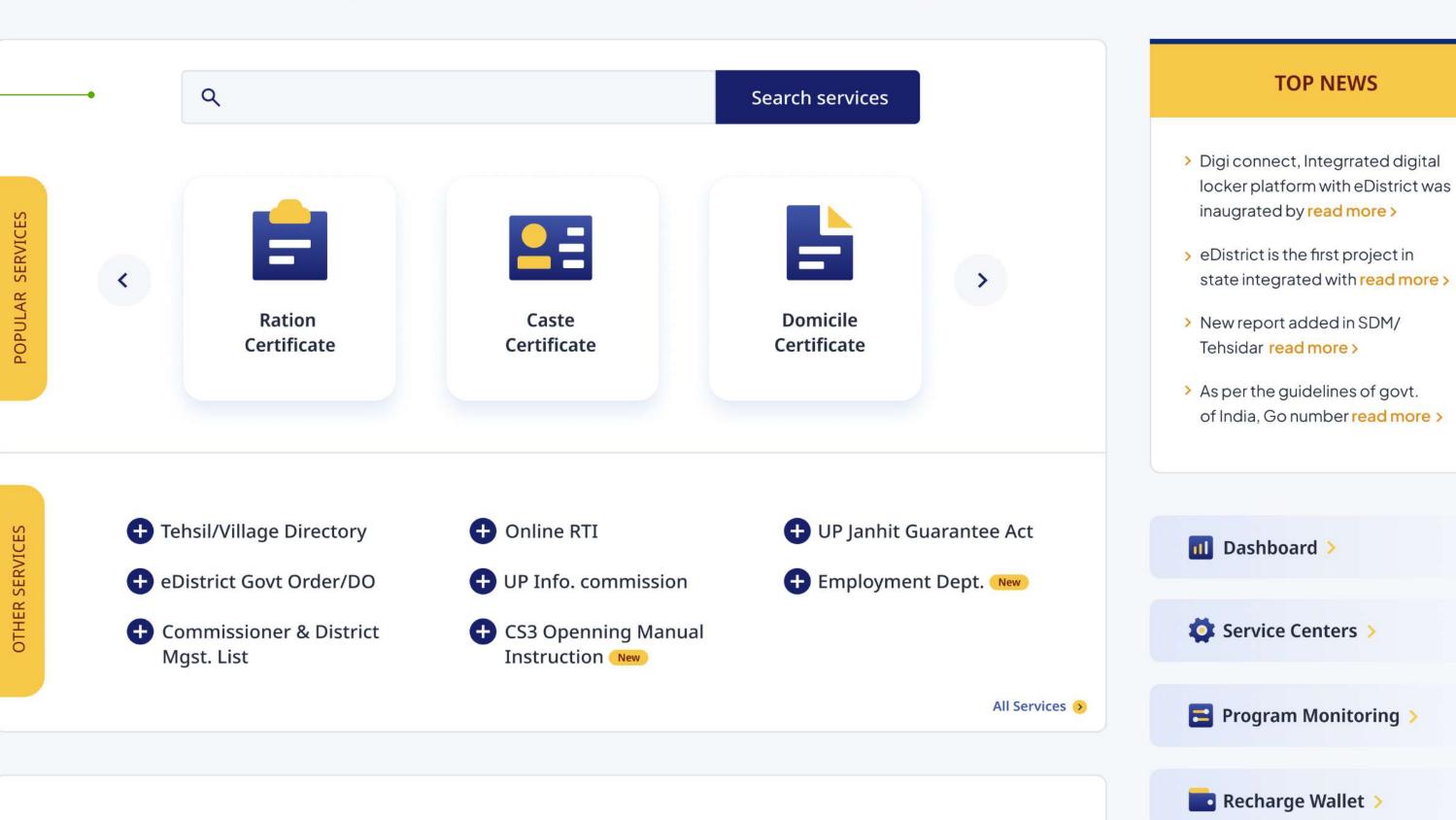




- Search bar increases efficiency in finding a particular service
- Allow user to choose from most popular/ frequent services to save time and effort

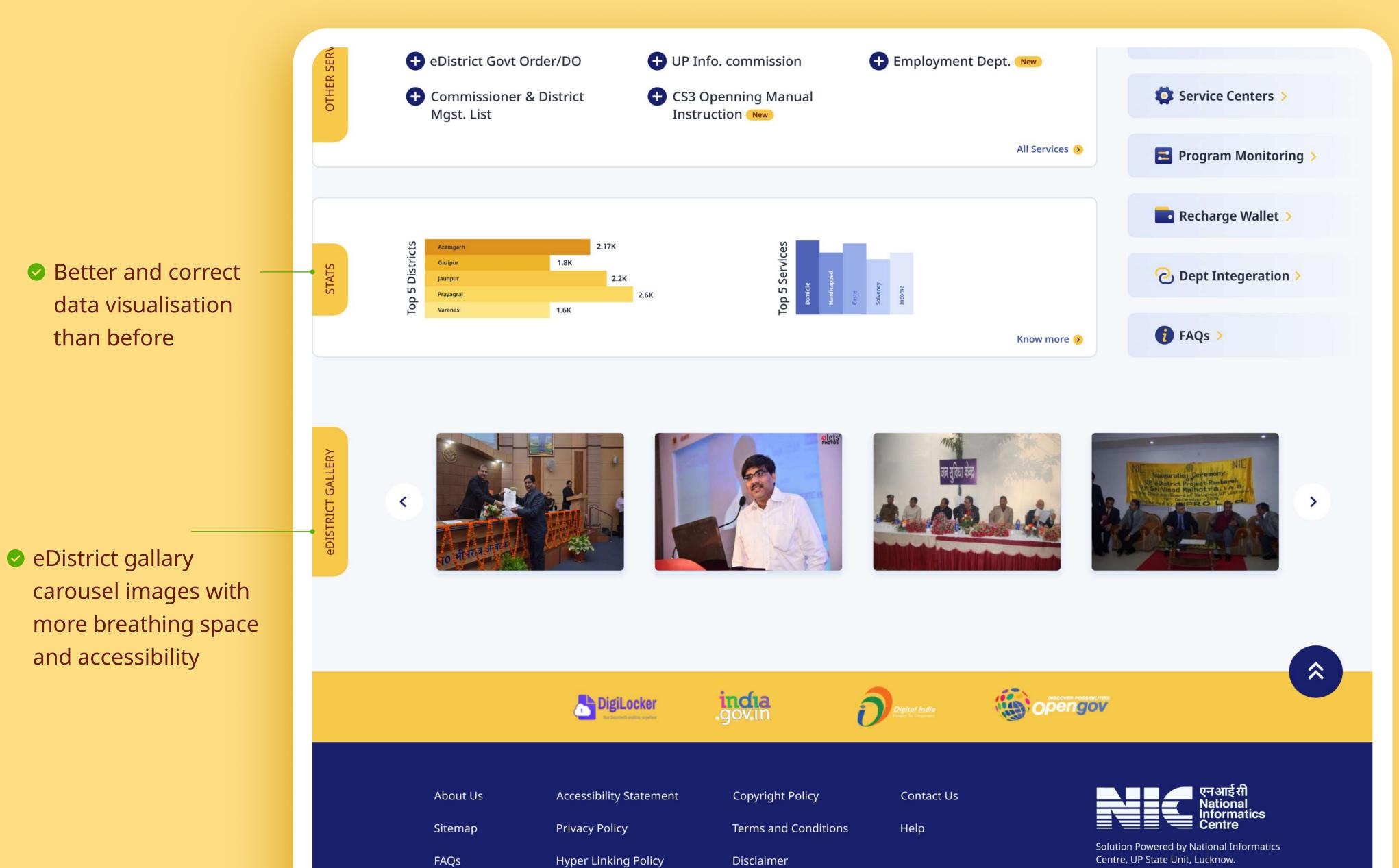
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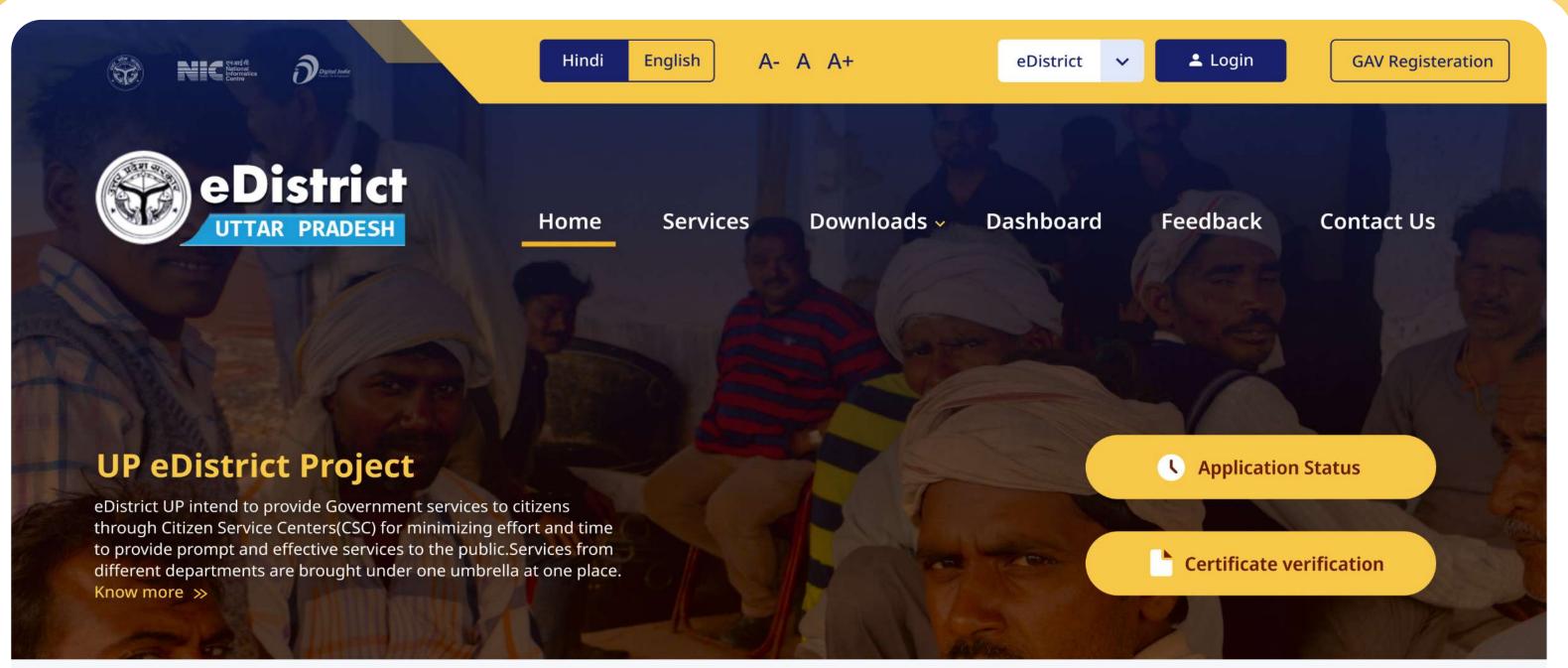
Imp news updates alongside services section.

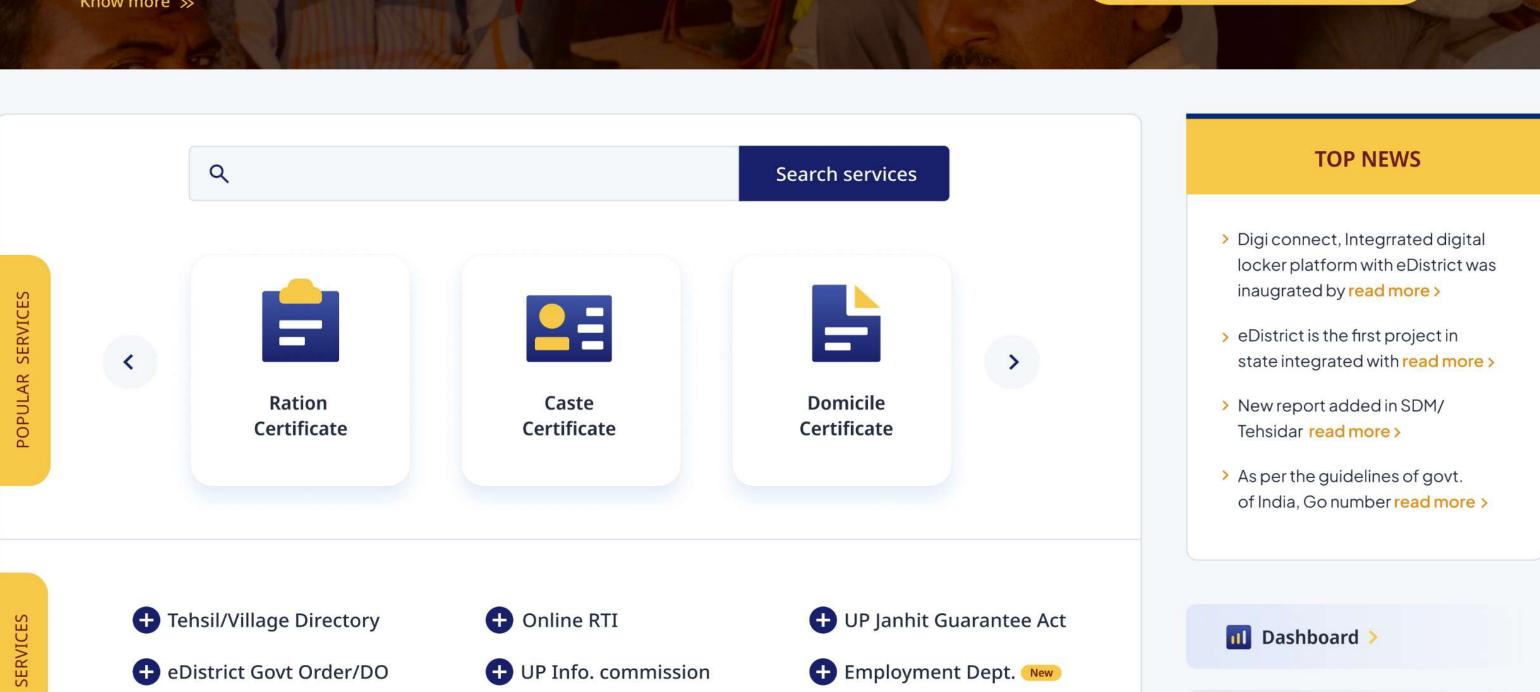
 Other important but not so frequent links.
 Shifted from navigation tab to this section

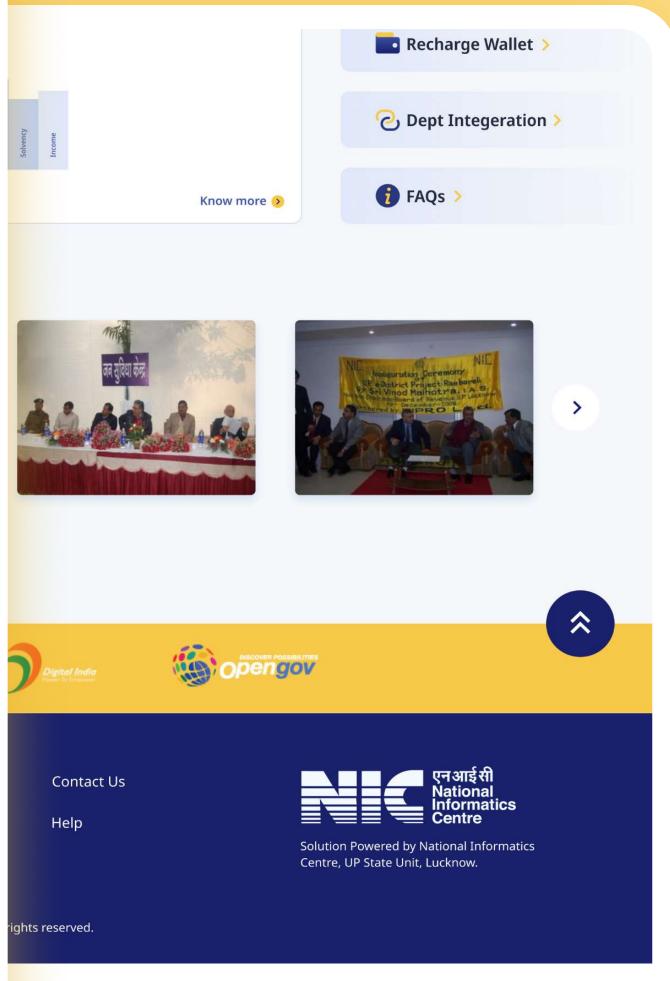


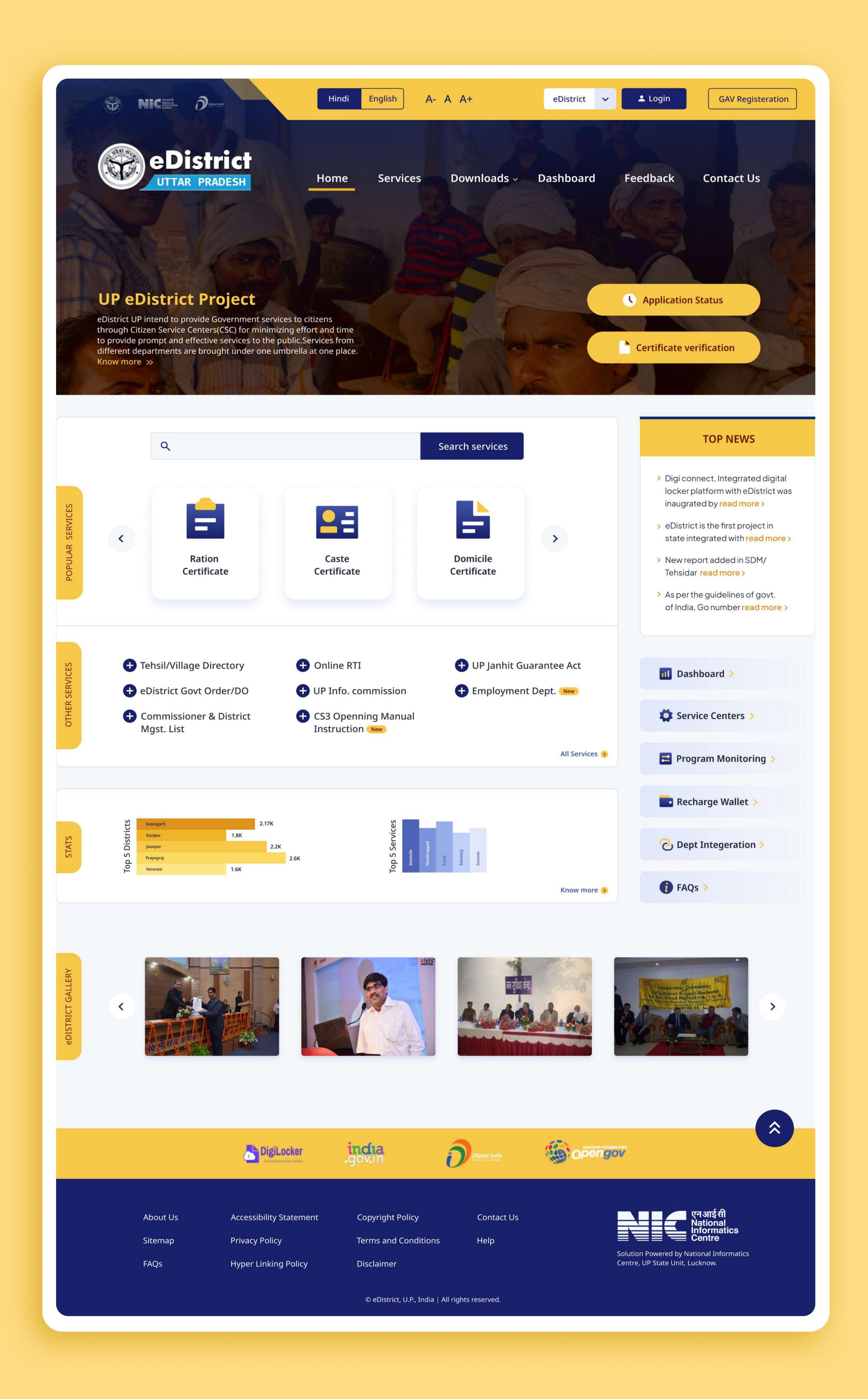
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Improved footer with useful links and visibility









Case study W.I.P....

Thank you

