

DIGITAL INDIA: SCOPE AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

“Digital India” is an enterprise of the Central Government of India to transform India into a global digitized by civilizing digital connectivity and skill improvement and various other incentives to make the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. It is the result of many innovations and technological advancements to bring digital revolution. The drive behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. It is a dream project of the Indian Government to remodel India into a knowledgeable economy and digitally empowered society, to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity.

Keywords: *Digital India, scope, challenges, empowerment*

INTRODUCTION:

The Digital India (DI) initiative aims to bring digital empowerment to India and aid in its transition to becoming a knowledge economy. The programme aims to do so through a combination of building digital infrastructure, providing digital services, implementing e-governance in an accessible manner and using technology as a driver of change and growth. Digital India is a campaign launched by the government of India on 1st of July in 2015 at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Delhi in the presence of various top industrialists. It aims to make India a better-governed place of the world. This project has been approved (worth Rs 1 lakh crore) by the prime minister of India, Narendra Modi and expected to be completed by 2019. The success of this programme would be the dream comes true of Narendra Modi of serving Indian people with e-governance. It is to facilitate Indian citizens with electronic government's services in order to reduce paperwork, improve work efficiency and save time.

This plan will really ensure the growth and development in India especially in the rural areas by connecting rural regions and remote villages with high-speed internet services. The overall project monitoring will be under the Prime Minister himself. Citizens of digital India may improve their knowledge and skill level after getting covered under the umbrella of internet. It is an ambitious project will benefit everyone especially villagers who travel long distance and waste time and money in doing paper works for various reasons. It is a most effective version (with nine pillars which are broadband highways, public Internet access programme, mobile connectivity everywhere, e-Kranti, e-Governance, information for all, IT for jobs, early harvest programmes and electronics manufacturing) of already existing National e-Governance Plan.

VISION OF DIGITAL INDIA: INITIATIVE OF DREAM PROJECT

Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen: This initiative brings together to deliver high speed communication technologies and digital services that will reach to the remotest villages, round the clock. Public services like land records, certificates and many more will be made available online or public cloud.

Governance and Services On Demand: This vision will provide single window access to every individual. Every government services or information is available online and on mobile platforms with a single touch.

Digital Empowerment of Citizens: Under this vision, every citizen will empower through digital literacy and universal access to digital resources. All documents and certificates to be available on cloud and in Indian languages

BENEFITS OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

- ❖ Online availability of data will lead to more transparency.
- ❖ E-Governance will help in reducing corruption.
- ❖ Digital locker facility will help citizen to digitally store their important documents like Pan card ,passport, mark sheets etc.
- ❖ Digital India mission is away for cashless transactions.
- ❖ The programme would generate giant demand for IT, electronics and telecommunication personnels.
- ❖ It will help in decreasing documentation and reducing paper work.

SCOPE OF DIGITAL INDIA

- ❖ Digital Locker System aims to minimize the usage of physical documents and enable sharing of e-documents across agencies. The sharing of the e-documents will be done through registered repositories thereby ensuring the authenticity of the documents online.
- ❖ MyGov.in has been implemented as a platform for citizen engagement in governance, through a “Discuss”, “Do” and “Disseminate” approach. The mobile App for My.Gov would bring these features to users on a mobile phone
- ❖ Digital education is new way of teaching and learning system. It is one of the great achievements in the field of education. Hence there are many scope of digital education:
 - Helpful For Organizations
 - Helpful for professionals
 - Helpful for society
 - Easy transaction
 - Helpful in banking system
 - It will make people more technology friendly.
 - It will develop their scientific and technological attitude towards digitalization.
 - It helps in improving professional development and management.
 - Technological advancement
 - Digital education will be very much helpful in making the each and every person technology friendly that they can make it more excess able.
- ❖ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Mobile app would be used by people and Government organizations for achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ E-Sign framework would allow citizens to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication.

CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL INDIA

Many people in rural areas have no Internet connection, and also the content in regional languages is not sufficient to keep the readers engaged. Only 15% of the households can access the Internet, and few people can access mobile broadband. This scenario is despite the increasing affordability of ICT environment in the country.

More than a year has been passed since Digital India mission has been announced but it is facing multiple challenges in successful implementation. Few of the challenges are-

- ❖ Making Digital India scheme known and creating an awareness among common masses about its benefits is also a great challenge..
- ❖ The private participation in government projects in India is poor because of long and complex regulatory processes.
- ❖ ASSOCHAMDeloitte Report pointed out that currently Over 50000 villages remain deprived of mobile connectivity because providing mobile connectivity in such locations is not commercially viable for service providers.
- ❖ India's digital infrastructure is comprehensively inadequate to tackle growing increase in digital transactions. The biggest challenge faced by Digital India programme is slow and delayed infrastructure development.

CONCLUSION

A digitally connected India can help in improving social and economic condition of people through development of non-agricultural economic activities apart from providing access to education, health and financial services. However, it is important to note that ICT alone cannot directly lead to overall development of the nation. The overall growth and development can be realized through supporting and enhancing elements such as literacy, basic infrastructure, overall business environment, regulatory environment, etc.

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