



DIGITAL INDIA: INITIATIVES AND IMPACT

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Abstract

Digital technologies including cloud computing and mobile applications have emerged as catalysts for rapid economic growth and citizen empowerment across the globe. Digital India is a campaign run by the Govt. of India with the aim to provide government services electronically to Indian Citizens by reducing the paper work. This technique is very effective and efficient which will save time and manpower to a great extent. Main elements of digital India are like creation of digital infrastructure, digital literacy and delivering services digitally all over the country. This campaign will really ensure the development in India especially in the rural areas by connecting rural regions and remote villages with high speed internet services. It is a most effective version of already existing National e-Governance Plan. This plan requires a lot of efforts from all departments of Government as well as private sectors. The main aim behind this concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. With the Digital India plan, the nation is planning to achieve the net zero import by 2020 which will help in the economic development of the nation. This programme make sure that all Government services are completely available to people electronically by maintaining proper internet facilities such as good internet infrastructure and increased internet connectivity. This plan will provide benefits to both service providers and consumers.

ISSN 2454-308X



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Keywords: - Digital India, Government, e-kranti.

Introduction

Digital India is a flagship programme launched by the Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi on 1st July 2015 with an objective of connecting rural areas with high internet networks and improving digital literacy. The programme includes projects that aim to ensure that government services are available to the citizens electronically and people get the benefits of the latest information and communication technology. It focuses on to provide the high speed internet facility, broadband highways, information technology jobs, all the information online, switch over to cashless transactions and use of mobile phones universally. The Digital India project is aimed to be completed by 2019. The Ministry of Communications and IT is the nodal agency to implement the programme. It is an ambitious project that will benefit everyone especially the villagers who travel long distance and waste time and money in doing the paper works for many reasons. It will also promote online business because it makes the financial transaction easy by electrification and cashless transaction. Digital empowerment of the Indian people will make digital literacy travelling possible through global access to digital resources. Digital India will bring more transparency in the processes and Governance and will eliminate a lot of cheating. Digital Locker will help citizens of India to keep their important documents safe in digital mode and provide each individual secure access.

Objectives Of The Study

- To understand the concept of Digital India.
- To discuss about the key points of Digital India.
- To understand the initiatives of Digital India.
- To study the impact of Digital India on Indian economy and society.

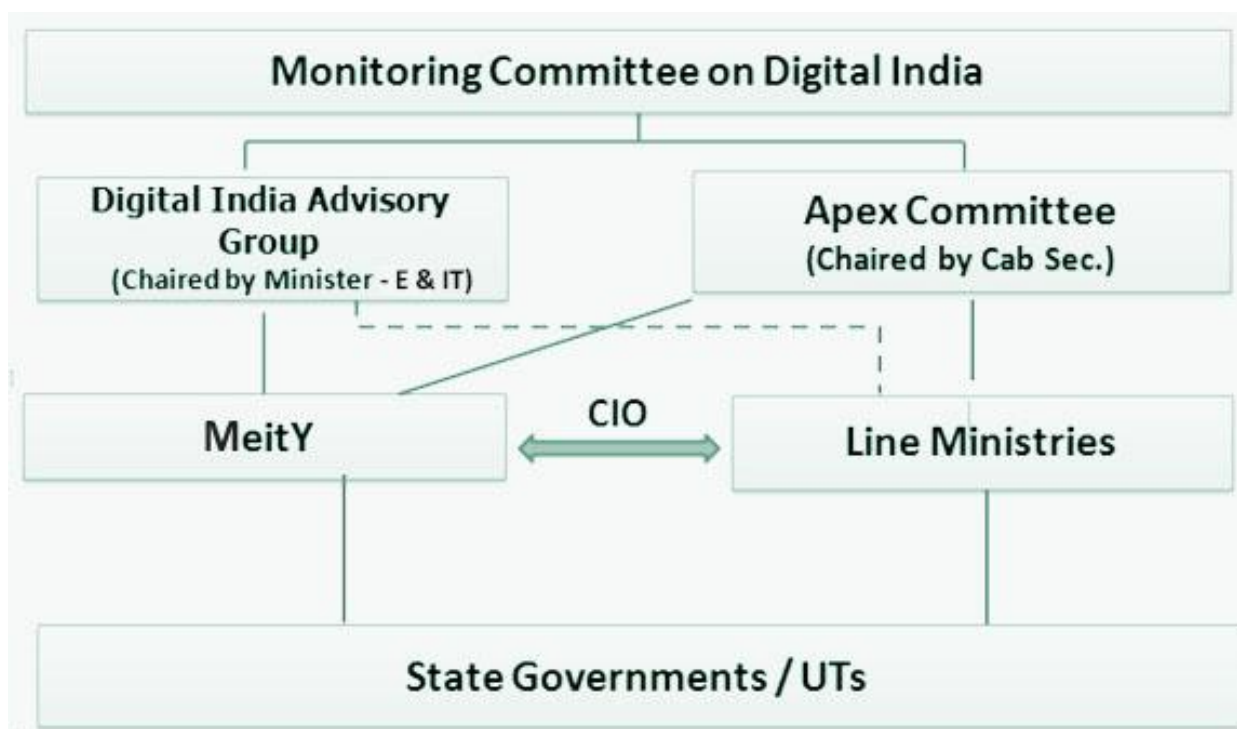
Key Points Related To The Digital India



Following are the important points related to the Digital India: -

1. The Digital India programme includes the projects that ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically and people can get the benefits of latest information and communication technology.
2. Under this programme, high-speed broadband coverage highways will connect 2,50,000 villages, various government departments, educational institutions, all universities etc.
3. The Digital India programme is mainly centered on three key vision areas namely:
 - a. Digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen
 - b. Governance and Services on demand.
 - c. Digital empowerment of Citizens.
4. World’s leading research firm Mckinsey has commented that adoption of new technologies and innovative ideas across sectors by the Digital India programme will help India boost GDP by \$550 Billion to \$1 Trillion by 2025.
5. Apps for Digital India are: -
 - a. Digital India Portal
 - b. MyGov Mobile App
 - c. Swachh Bharat Mission App and
 - d. Aadhar Mobile Update App
6. Digital India programme consists of three core components which are: -
 - a. The Creation of Digital Infrastructure
 - b. Delivering Services Digitally
 - c. Digital Literacy
7. For effective management for Digital India programme, the programme management structure would consist of monitoring committee on Digital India headed by the Prime Minister, a Digital advisory group chaired by Minister of Communication and IT and an apex committee chaired cabinet secretary.
- 8.

Institutional mechanism at National Level.





INITIATIVES OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

Digital India comprises of various initiatives under the single programme each aimed to prepare India for becoming a knowledge economy. These are as follows: -

1. **Digital Locker:** - This service was launched as an important facility to store crucial documents like Voter ID Card, PAN Card, BPL Card, Driving License, Educational Certificates etc. in the cloud. This system aims to minimize the usage of physical documents and enable the sharing of e-documents across agencies. Three key stakeholders of Digital Lockers are citizens, issuer and requester.
2. **E-Kranti:** - e-Kranti will focus on digital knowledge programme where education, health, farming, financial and many more services will be delivered on a very high bandwidth. The objectives of e-kranti are to leverage the emerging technologies and to promote rapid replication and integration of eGov applications etc. e-kranti Physical boundaries no longer are a limitation when almost everyone and everything is a digital handshake away.
3. **Broadband Highways:** - The aim of this initiative is to provide internet connectivity in all areas within the country to all citizens. To deliver citizen services electronically and improve the way citizens and authorities transact with each other, it is important to have ubiquitous connectivity.
4. **IT Training for Jobs:** - The Government is preparing to provide training and teaching skills to the youth for employment opportunities in the IT sector. BPO services will be established for the growing segment of IT enable services industry, IT offers e-services 24/7 in every field and gives more job potentials. This initiative seeks to train 10 Million people in towns and villages for IT sector jobs in five years.
5. **E-sign framework:** - This initiative will enable the users to digitally sign a document online using aadhar authentication.
6. **National Scholarship Portal:** - National scholarship portal is one stop solution through which various services starting from students application, application receipt, processing, sanction and disbursement of scholarships to students are enabled. It aims at providing common electronic portal for implementing various scholarship schemes launched by Union Government, State Government and Union Territories across the country. It ensure timely disbursement of scholarships to students and create a transparent database of scholars.
7. **Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity:** - Various technologies that support cost containment, collaboration, security, social connect and in-built intelligence that deliver remote access to any information or service available across the domain. This change will open new doors of e-services to every citizen. This initiative is to focus on network penetration and fill the gaps in connectivity in the country.
8. **Public Internet Access programme:** - Two sub components of Public internet access programme are Common Service Centre (CSC) and post offices as multi-service centres. One common service centre would be provided to each gram panchayat and Deity would be the nodal department to implement this scheme. 150,000 post offices are proposed to be converted into multiservice centres and department of posts would be the nodal department to implement this scheme.
9. **Information for All:** - The initiative of information to all would encompass making information online and hosting website and documents. The platform 'MyGov.in' fosters two-way communication between citizens and Government. It has been implemented as a platform for citizen engagement in Governance, through a "Discuss", "Do" and "Disseminate"



approach. This result into an easy and open access to information by public in general along with development of open data platforms.

- 10. Early Harvest programs:** - Government plans to installed wi-fi facilities in all universities across the country. All books will be converted into e-books. E-mail would be the primary mode of communication. Cities with population of over 1 Million and tourist centres would be provided with public wi-fi hotspot to promote digital cities. SMS based weather information and disaster alerts would be provided. Biometrics attendance system will be installed in all central Government offices where recording of attendance will be made online.
- 11. Electronics Manufacturing:** - The Government is focusing on the zero imports of the electronics by 2020. Target NET ZERO import is a striking demonstration of intent. This goal requires coordinated action on many fronts like taxation, incentives, economics of scale, eliminate cost disadvantages. Front areas are Fab-Less design, set top boxes, VSATs, mobiles, consumer and medical electronics, smart cards, Micro-ATMs.
- 12. e-Governance:** - IT would be used to make the delivery of government services more effectively. There would be integration of services and platform- UIDAI, Payment Gateway, Mobile Seva Platform etc. through IT. This type of governance will transform every manual work into fully automation system. This is to improve the Government to citizen interface for various service deliveries.

Impact Of Digital India Programme On Economy And Society

Economic Impact: - According to analysts, digital India plan will boost the GDP of India to \$1 Trillion by 2025. It can play an important role in macro-economic factors such as GDP growth, employment generation, labor productivity and growth in the number of businesses. As per World Bank report, a 10% increase in mobile and broadband penetration increases the per capita GDP by 0.81% and 1.38% respectively in the developing countries. Technology allows businesses to transact easily and efficiently and thus contribute faster to economic growth. Digital India makes easy the progress of country by promoting e-services to every citizen. The Government is pushing and encouraging Indian Public to go cashless and reduce reliance on the cash transactions. Digital transactions make us to follow the legal path which is helpful for the growth of economy. Digital payments will also be helpful to the global world. Digital India programme would generate huge number of jobs in IT, electronics and telecommunication sector directly and indirectly.

Social Impact: - Government has planned to give IT training to 100 Million students in smaller towns and villages as employment opportunities in IT sector is high in India. Social sectors such as education, healthcare and banking are unable to reach out to citizens due to obstacles and limitations such as middle man, illiteracy, ignorance, poverty and lack of fund and information. Information and communication technology makes it easier for people to obtain access to services and resources. The Digital India Programme will help in providing real-time education and partly address the challenge of lack of teachers in education system through smart and virtual classrooms. It assures the broadband connectivity in all panchayats, schools, libraries and other public places. Mobile and online banking can improve the financial inclusion in the country. Telecom operators get revenue streams while banks can reach new customer group incurring lower costs.

CONCLUSION

The initiative of the Govt of India in order to transform India in to the digitally empowered society and knowledge economy is an amazing initiative. Digital India programme can help in improving the social and economic conditions of people by development of non-agricultural economic activities apart from providing access to education, health and financial services. Services like e-kranti,



MyGov.in, National Scholarship Portal and other portal services creates a knowledge economy. The Digital India programme would make all the government services available to people of country through common service delivery outlet. There will be more transparency because all the data would be made online and would be accessible to citizens of the country. Citizens of Digital India may improve their knowledge and skill level after getting covered under the umbrella of internet.

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