



Digital India Program: Importance And Impact

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Abstract

Digital India is a campaign launched by the Government of India to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. It was launched on 1 July 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high speed internet networks. Digital India consists of three core components. They are:

- The creation of digital infrastructure
- Delivery of services digitally
- Digital literacy

Today, every nation wants to be fully digitalized and this program strives to provide equal benefit to the user and service provider. Hence, an attempt has been made in this paper to understand Digital India – as a campaign where technologies and connectivity will come together to make an impact on all aspects of governance and improve the quality of life of citizens.

Keywords

Digital India , Digital Infrastructure, Digital Literacy ,Internet Networks , Technologies

Introduction

The year 2014 is a watershed year in the history of the Indian republic. This is significant as the said year has heralded the beginning of a new era. This is the era of Digital India .The Narendra Modi led Government has come up with a detailed comprehensive vision of India which is digital in all aspects. The said vision is encompassed in the program entitled “Digital India”.



Digital India is an ambitious program of Government of India projected at Rs 1,13,000crores . this will be for preparing the India for the knowledge based transformation and delivering good governance to citizen by synchronized and co-ordinated engagement with both central Government and State Government. The programme will be implemented in phase 2014 till 2018. The source of funding of the e-Governance projects at present is through budgetary provision of respective ministers/ department in the Central or State Governments.

What is Digital India?

- With the launch of Digital India programme, the government is taking a big step forward to transform the country into a digitally empowered knowledge economy.
- Includes various schemes worth over Rs 1 lakh crore like Digital Locker, e- Education, e-health, e-sign and national scholarship portal.
- Bharat Net in 11 states and Next Generation Network (NGN), are also a part of Digital India campaign.
- The programme includes projects that aim to ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically and people get benefit of the latest information and communication technology.
- The Ministry of Communications and IT is the nodal agency to implement the programme.
- To make this programme more interactive Government of India launch numbers of digital application such as: Digital India portal, Mygov Mobile App, Swachh Bharat Mission App and Aadhaar mobile App.
- **Vision Areas of Digital India**



Digital Infrastructure as a utility to Every Citizen

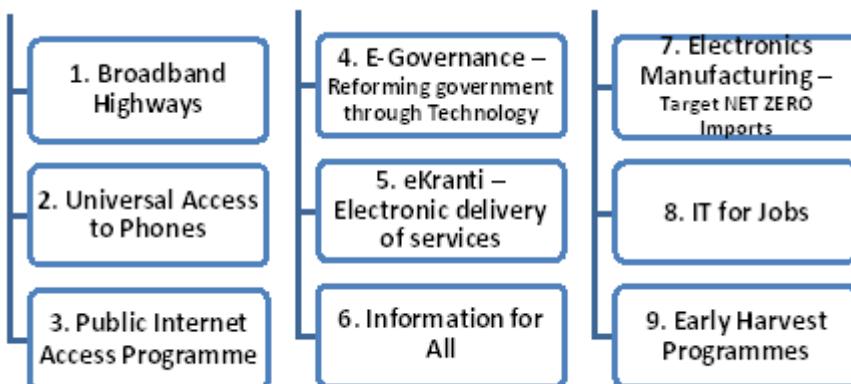
Governance and services and demand

Digital Empowerment of citizens

9 pillars of digital India

The Government of India hopes to achieve growth on multiple fronts with the Digital India Programme. Specifically, the government aims to target nine 'Pillars of the Digital India' that they identify as being

1. Broadband Highway
2. Universal access to Internet
3. Public Internet Access Programme
4. e-Governance – Reforming Government through Technology
5. e-Kranti - Electronic delivery of services
6. Information for All
7. Electronics Manufacturing
8. IT for Jobs
9. Early Harvest Programmes



Highlights of the progress in Digital India



- More than 12000 rural post office branches have been linked digitally and soon payment banking would also become a reality for them.
- The government also plan to make digital India across the country by linking all schemes with technology. The digital village would be powered by LED lighting ,solar energy, skill development centres and e service like e-education and e-heath.
- Electronic transaction related to e-governance projects in the country have almost doubled in 2015, owing to the digital India programme.
- The progressive policies and aggressive focus on “ Make in India” have played significant role in the resurgence of the electronic manufacturing sector.

Importance of digital India programme

Health: Digital health care would impart e-health care in the society.

Farmer: this project is highly beneficial for farmers. The farmers would come to know real time price information through online communication.

Finance: Digital banking is likely to provide huge push up to financial inclusion. The project include mobile banking, micro ATM program and so on.

Justice: E-courts , E-police, E-jails , E- prosecution are in the plan of digital india.

E-sign: An initiative to eradicate forgery and fraudulent signature ,the e- sign framework would allow citizens to digitally sign on document online using Aadhaar authentication.

Education: Through digital India government has planned to making schools books accessible as digital books as e-books read on tablets and laptops. All schools will be connected with broadband.

Impact of Digital India

Economic impact:

According to analysts, the Digital India plan could boost GDP upto \$1 trillion by 2025. It can play a key role in macro- economic factors such as GDP growth, employment generation ,labor productivity ,growth in number of business and revenue leakages for the Government.

As per the 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.

Social Impact:



Social sectors such as education , healthcare, and banking are unable to reach out to the citizens due to obstructions and limitations such as middleman , illiteracy , ignorance , poverty , lack of funds , information and investments. These challenges have led to an imbalanced growth in the rural and urban areas with marked differences in the economic and social status of the people in the areas.

The poor literacy rate in India is due to unavailability of physical infrastructure in rural and remote areas . This is where m-Education services can play an important role by reaching remote masses. According to estimates , the digital literacy rate in India is just 6.5% and the internet penetration is 20.83 out of 100 population . The digital India project will be helpful in providing real-time education and partly address the challenge of lack of teachers in education system through smart and virtual classrooms. Education to farmers , fishers men can be provided through mobile devices.

Mobile and internet banking can improve the financial inclusion in the country and can create win-win situation for all parties in the value-chain by creating an interoperable ecosystem and revenue sharing business models.

Digital platforms can help farmers in know how (crop choice , seed variety) , context (weather , plant protection , cultivation best practices) and market information (market prices , market demand , logistics).

Environmental Impact:

The major changes in the technology space will not only brought changes to the economic system but will also contribute to the environmental changes .

The next generation technologies will help in lowering the carbon footprint by reducing fuel consumption , waste management , greener workplace and thus leading to a greener ecosystem. The ICT sector helps in efficient man agreement and usage of scarce and non-renewable resources.

Cloud computing technology minimizes carbon emissions by improving mobility and flexibility . The energy consumption can be decreased from 201.8 terawatt hour (TWh) in 2010 to 139.8TWh in 2020 by higher adoption of cloud data centers causing a 28% reduction in carbon footprint from 2010 levels.

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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