

An Analytical study on Digital India Programme

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ABSTRACT

It is a well-known fact that digital India is the outcome of many innovations and technological advancements. These transform the lives of people in many ways and will empower the society in a better manner. The 'Digital India' program an initiative of honourable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, will emerge new progressions in every sector and generates innovative endeavours for geNext. The motive behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. The Digital India drive is a dream project of the Indian Government to remodel India into a knowledgeable economy and digitally empowered society, with good governance for citizens by bringing synchronization and co-ordination in public accountability, digitally connecting and delivering the government programs and services to mobilize the capability of information technology across government departments. Today, every nation wants to be fully digitalized and this programme 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.

Key Words: Digital India, Digital Technology, e-Kranti, e-Governance.

INTRODUCTION:

The economy of India is the seventh-largest in the world measured by nominal GDP and the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). The country is classified as a newly industrialised country, and one of the G-20 major economies, with an average growth rate of approximately 7% over the last two decades. The Indian economy has the potential to become the world's 3rd-largest economy by the next decade, and one of the two largest economies by mid-century. And the outlook for short-term growth is also good as according to the IMF, the Indian economy is the "bright spot" in the global landscape India also topped the World Bank's growth outlook for 2015-16 for the first time with the economy having grown 7.6% in 2015-16. Growth is expected to decline slightly to 7.1% in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The digital world that we live in today is that where every civilian has a bright prospect to transform the lives in many ways that were hard to envision just a couple of years ago. It is the outcome of several innovations and technology advances. Today, every nation wants to be fully digitalized that will empower

society in a better manner. The 'Digital India' programme, an initiative of honourable Prime Minister Mr.NarendraModi, will emerge new progressions in every sector and generates innovative endeavours for geNext. The motive behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. All educational institutions and government services will soon be able to provide I-ways round the clock.

Digital India will provide all services electronically and promote digital literacy. Digital Technologies which includes the concept of cloud computing and mobile applications have emerged as the catalysts for express economic growth and citizen empowerment. Companies all over the world desire to invest in Digital India-the 21st century India, as a growth opportunity. 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. Global investors like SundarPichai, SatyaNadella, Elon Musk have supported Modi's Digital India initiative.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Digital India” initiative has been an intriguing subject matter of numerous researches from various disciplinesbecause of its great significance and influence on the economy as a whole and particularly the technological sector.

Prof. Singh in December 2016 of National journal of economics statedthe basic overview of what Digital India entails and led a discussion of conceptualstructure of the program and examined the impact of “Digital India” initiative on the technological sector of India.

SundarPichai, SatyaNadella, Elon Musk researched about Digital India and its preparedness to create jobs opportunities in the information sector.

Microsoft CEO, SatyaNadellaintends to become India’s partner in Digital India program.

Prof.Arvind Gupta in editorial article written THE HINDU on 24th January 2017intends to say that Digital India movement will play an important rolen effective delivery of services, monitoring performance managing projects, and improving governance

In our paper we try to stress on importance and impact of digital india on overall development of the country

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine how the technologies and connectivity will come together to make an impact on all aspects of governance and improve the quality of life of citizens.
2. To study out how the government services can work effectively with practical solutions and innovative ideas to accomplish the vision of a digital India-a reality

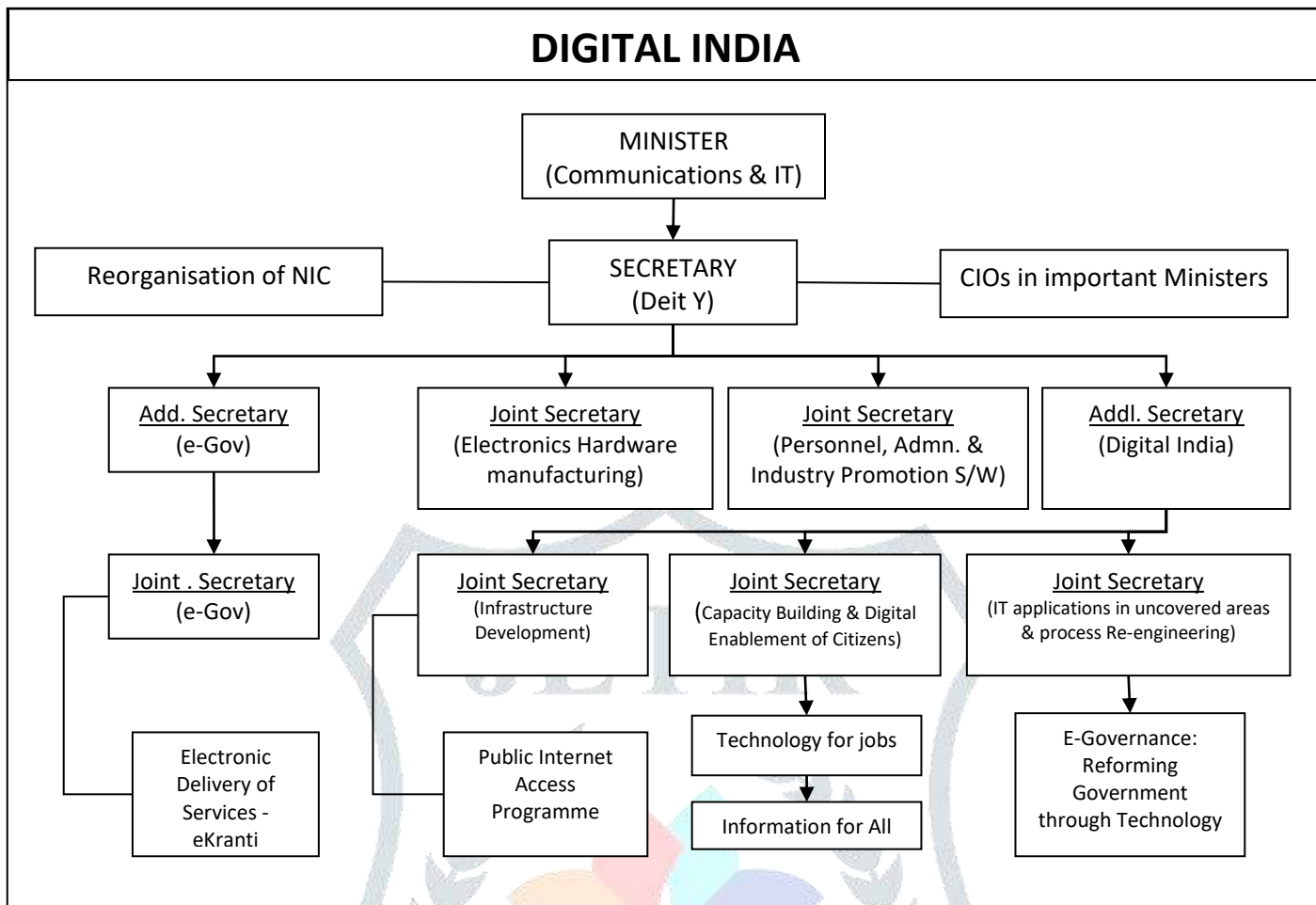
RESERACH METHODOLOGY

The secondary data has been collected. For this purpose, various magazines and journals have been used for this paper. Thus, the focus is to know more about the concept, its application and the impact on economy via other parameters. Therefore, qualitative and quantitative data have been used.

CONCEPT OF DIGITAL INDIA

The programme contains tasks that target to make sure that govt. services are available to people digitally and people get advantage of the newest information and connections technological innovation. Gandhiji felt that 'India resides in its villages,' and technology will help the villages to grow and prosper. Digital libraries, online magazines, e-books can be made available for free which will further help in knowledge sharing. PM Modi rightly said in his speech in San Jose, "I see technology as a means to empower and as a tool that bridges the distance between hope and opportunity. Social media is reducing social barriers. It connects people on the strength of human values, not identities." Technology is a bridge indeed, a bridge that connects the hope that India's villages will be educated and aware to the opportunity of internet and access to information from across the world. 'Digital India' is not just an initiative but a need for this country, where majority of population still does not have access to the world of internet. The Digital India initiative seeks to lay emphasis on e-governance and transform India into a digitally empowered society. It is to ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically. Digital India also aims to transform ease of doing business in the country. The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (deitY) anticipates that this program will have a huge impact on the Ministry of Communication and IT. The program is projected at Rs 1, 13,000 crore which will prepare the country for knowledge-based transformation

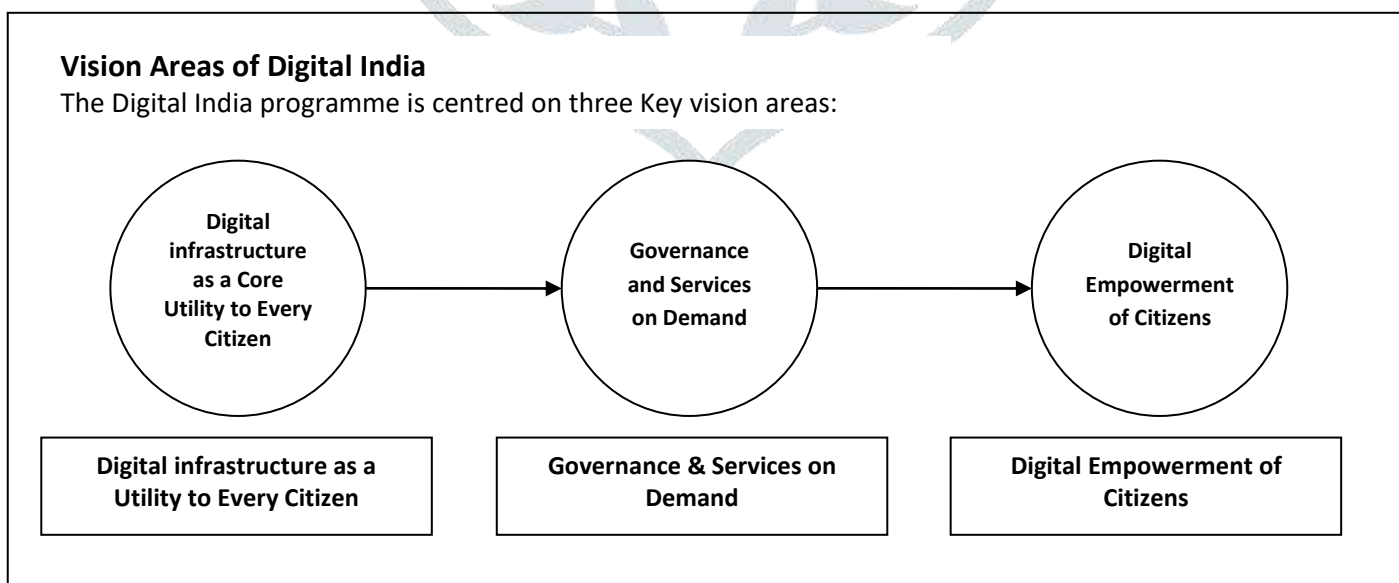
Figure-1: Digital India



Source: iasscore.in

VISION AREAS OF DIGITAL INDIA

Figure-2



Source: iasscore.in

I Infrastructure as Utility to Every Citizen:

- (i) High speed internet as a core utility shall be made available in all Gram Panchayats.
- (ii) Cradle to grave digital identity - unique, lifelong, online and authenticable.
- (iii) Mobile phone and Bank account would enable participation in digital and financial space at individual level.
- (iv) Easy access to a Common Service Centre within their locality.
- (v) Shareable private space on a public Cloud.
- (vi) Safe and secure Cyber-space in the country.

II Governance and Services on Demand:

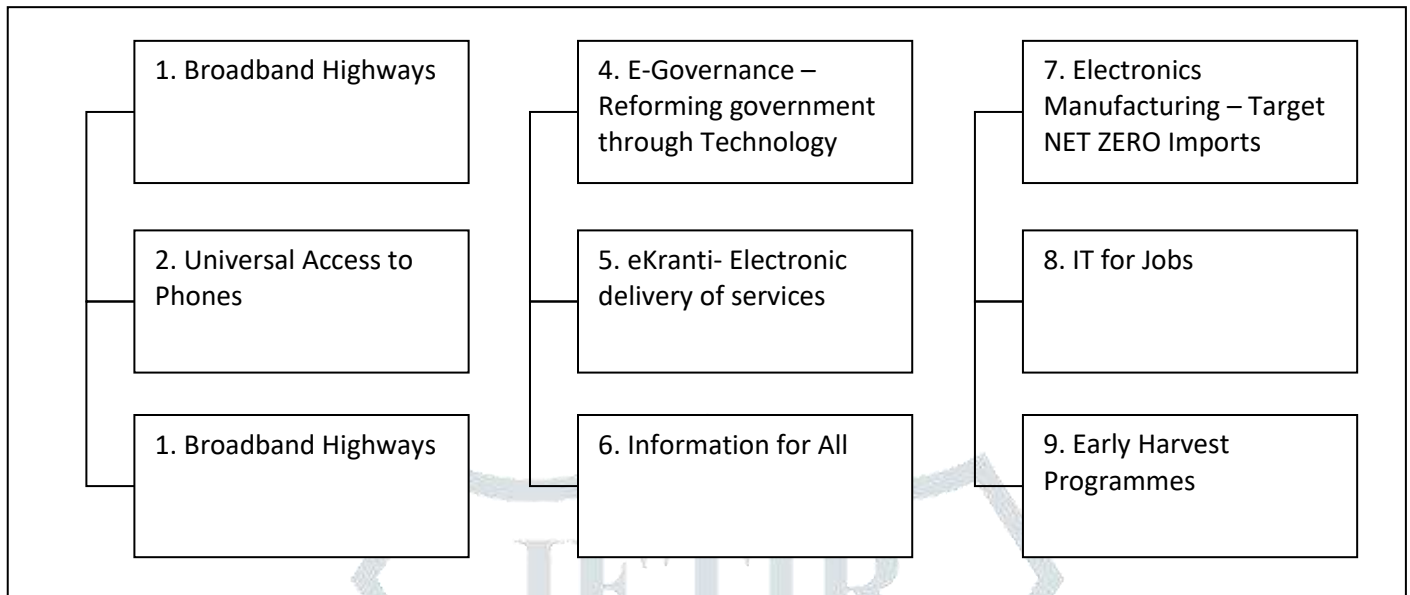
- (i) Seamlessly integrated across departments or jurisdictions to provide easy and a single window access to all persons.
- (ii) Government services available in real time from online and mobile platforms.
- (iii) All citizen entitlements to be available on the Cloud to ensure easy access.
- (iv) Government services digitally transformed for improving Ease of Doing Business.
- (v) Making financial transactions above a threshold, electronic and cashless.
- (vi) Leveraging GIS for decision support systems and development.

III Digital Empowerment of Citizens:

- (i) Universal digital literacy.
- (ii) All digital resources universally accessible.
- (iii) All Government documents/ certificates to be available on the Cloud.
- (iv) Availability of digital resources / services in Indian languages.
- (v) Collaborative digital platforms for participative governance.
- (vi) Portability of all entitlements for individuals through the Cloud

NINE PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA

Figure-3



Source: iasscore.in

Key Projects of Digital India programme:

1. 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.

2. MyGov.in has been implemented as a platform for citizen engagement in governance, through a “Discuss”, “Do” and “Disseminate” approach. The mobile App for MyGov would bring these features to users on a mobile phone.

3. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Mobile app would be used by people and Government organizations for achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission.

4. eSign framework would allow citizens to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication.

5. The Online Registration System (ORS) under the eHospital application has been introduced. This application provides important services such as online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online etc.

6. National Scholarships Portal is a one stop solution for end to end scholarship process right from submission of student application, verification, sanction and disbursement to end beneficiary for all the scholarships provided by the Government of India.

7. DeitY has undertaken an initiative namely **Digitize India Platform (DIP)** for large scale digitization of records in the country that would facilitate efficient delivery of services to the citizens.
8. The Government of India has undertaken an initiative namely **Bharat Net**, a high speed digital highway to connect all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats of country. This would be the world's largest rural broadband connectivity project using optical fibre.
9. BSNL has introduced **Next Generation Network (NGN)**, to replace 30 year old exchanges, which is an IP based technology to manage all types of services like voice, data, multimedia/ video and other types of packet switched communication services.
10. BSNL has undertaken large scale deployment of Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the country. The user can latch on the BSNL Wi-Fi network through their mobile devices.
11. To deliver citizen services electronically and improve the way citizens and authorities transact with each other, it is imperative to have ubiquitous connectivity. The government also realises this need as reflected by including '**broadband highways**' as one of the pillars of Digital India.

IMPACT OF DIGITAL INDIA

A. Economic impact:

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

A 10% increase in mobile and broadband penetration increases the per capita GDP by 0.81% and 1.38% respectively in the developing countries says world bank report. India is the 2nd largest telecom market in the world with 915 million wireless subscribers and world's 3rd largest Internet market with almost 259 million broadband users. There is still a huge economic opportunity in India as the tele-density in rural India is only 45% where more than 65% of the population lives. Future growth of telecommunication industry in terms of number of subscribers is expected to come from rural areas as urban areas are saturated with a tele-density of more than 160%.

B. Social impact:

Reach Social sectors such as education, healthcare, and banking are unable to 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 these areas.

Modern ICT makes it easier for people to obtain access to services and resources. The penetration of mobile devices may be highly useful as a complementary channel to public service delivery apart from creation of entirely new services which may have an enormous impact on the quality of life of the users and lead to social modernization.

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 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, fisher men can be provided through mobile devices. The high speed network can provide the adequate infrastructure for online education platforms like massive open online courses (MOOCs).

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. Telecom operators get additional revenue streams while the banks can reach new customer groups incurring lowest possible costs.

C. 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 workplaces and thus leading to a greener ecosystem. The ICT sector helps in efficient management 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 139.8 TWh in 2020 by higher adoption of cloud data centers causing a 28% reduction in carbon footprint from 2010 levels.

CONCLUSION

Digital India' initiative is a refreshing move and quite the need of the hour for the weakened technological sector. 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. However, it requires to be rightly substantiated with amendments to various legislations that have for long hindered the growth of Indian technology. India should focus more on developing domestically led connectivity, promoting research and innovation-led development to establish itself strongly on the international stage as an economic superpower

and particularly a thriving technological hub.

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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