DIGITAL INDIA: DEVELOPMENTS REFLECTING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF AN EMPOWERED NATION

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Abstract : Technology is a system that uses human knowledge to produce, sustain, nourish and boost technological advances in the mechanical sector. Various things that are useful to as in our day-to-day routines are an offshoot of technological expansions. Researchers come up with newer, innovative ideas through progressive research and experiments. Digital India is a manoeuvre launched by the Government of India to make Government's services electronically accessible to citizens through revamped online infrastructure, increased Internet connectivity and make the country digitally authorized in the sphere of information technology. The present paper, "Digital India: Developments Reflecting the True Spirit of an Empowered Nation", points out the vision to transform the country into a digitally empowered nation and knowledge economy. The main objective of the digitalization is to provide all services to every citizen in the country through web portals and making all the transactions smooth and transparent. In order to eradicate black money and corruption among citizens, the government is investing more in technology.

Key Words: Digital India, Digital Technology, Internet Connectivity, Technological Advancement.

I. INTRODUCTION

History has been an observer to numerous social, cultural and economic rebellions. Emerging with agricultural, moving on to industrial and then the technological, these rebellions have changed the countenance of humanity. At present, the digital rebellion is reevaluating the steps of progression opening innumerable paths to metamorphose society, culture and life style.

Digitization as a circumstance made its onset long ago but the step was so progressive and the changes involved so elusive, that it went nearly unobserved. Early digital initiatives were mainly to maintain records, make in-house management systems, processing of data, etc. Over the last few years, the digital rebellion has opened a complete brand new panorama of opportunities reconstructing the scope of development. From the internet to artificial intelligence and robotics, emerging technologies have presented unprecedented opportunities for social and economic renovation.

The fastest growing economy in the world, India has undergone complete transformation with the rapid uptake of digital technologies. Smart and connected technology has become an integral part of business, governments and social communities. It has had extreme impact on the way people interact with one another, express their feelings, share ideas, and manage their health and finances.

Amitabh Kant, the CEO of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) and also a member of IAS (Indian Administrative Service) wrote an article *Development Through Digitization*, he pointed out that:

> The world is getting digitized at a rapid pace in all aspects be it enterprises making products and selling them, humans transacting their daily lives and governments delivering social services to their citizens. The astronomical pace of digital data generation, dropping costs of data storage and compute infrastructure have enabled digitalization at unprecedented levels which is now being termed as the 4th Industrial Revolution. Government of India and various State Governments have identified the transformational potential of Digital India and have started proactive adoption of these technologies. [7]. (Amitabh Kant, 2018)

For several years, India has been a composite nation, forging strenuously for the commoner to approach government services. The swift espousal of digital technology across sectors is creating things easy and gets rid of all forms of human interference. This has a serious impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of governance

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II. OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

i. To find out how internet and information technology would flourish under an umbrella to make an impression on every aspect of administration and upgrade the standard of living of people.

ii. To explore how the government services would fulfill their schemes by making the Digital India – a reality.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study employs exploratory methodology in identifying patterns and themes of technological advancement emerging from the Digital India Scheme.

IV. DIGITAL INDIA: POWER TO EMPOWER

The Government of India launched a brave pace by launching Digital India campaign on 1 July 2015. The motto of Digital India campaign was 'Power to Empower'. Digital India is an imaginative creativity of the Prime Minister to metamorphose India by leveraging the power of information technology. It is focused to encourage the impoverished and the

downtrodden by making use of affordable, inclusive and developmental technology. The empowerment and inclusive growth of layman is at the core of Digital India. Simmi Chaudhary is an Economic Adviser, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology wrote in her article *Transformative Impact of Digital India:*

The initiatives under Digital India coupled with evolving technology, have led India to become a land of vast possibilities, where hope and talent meet opportunities digitally. India is among the top countries of the world that have effectively utilized technology and innovation to transform the governance outlook from government-centric to citizen centric, where e-services are targeted towards creation of an environment of empowering citizens through participative governance, and engaging them in decision-making and formulation of government policies, programmes, regulations, etc. [29]. (Simmi Chaudhary, 2018).

Fig 1

This very day, India is accredited in the world for its flourishing IT industry that is prominent in more than 200 cities. In the Digital India programme different innovations have taken towards creating digital identities and infrastructure, enhancing digital delivery services and developing employment and entrepreneurial opportunities that have transformed India into a digital economy while bringing decisive changes in the lives of citizens.

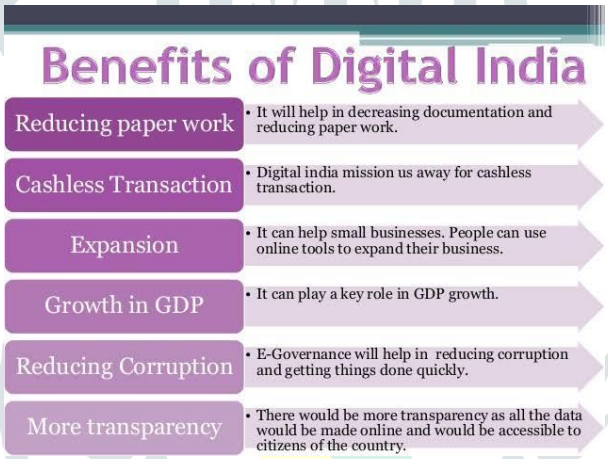

Fig 2

- **Digital Identity:** Digital Identity is the cue to unclose entry and potential of the Digital India programme. Aadhaar provides a unique digital identity and has come up with a digital identity to adjunct the physical identity of citizens to restrain leakages and corruptions from the public welfare delivery mechanism.
- **Bharat Net:** Bharat Net supplies high speed internet by connecting all the 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats of India, building optical fibre networks in rural areas of India.
- **National Knowledge Network (NKN):** NKN is a network to foster cooperation and exchange of knowledge between educational and research institutions. Applications that are entitled to NKN are, Virtual Class Rooms, collaborative research groups, NDL, NPTEL, Various Grids etc.
- **GI Cloud (Meghraj):** GI Cloud aims to speed up the delivery of e-services in the country and helps to accelerate the deployment of eGov applications.
- **eSign (Electronic Signature):** It is an innovative method for efficient, secure and flexible signing of electronic documents by authenticating the signer using e-kyc service. Some applications are Digital Locker, e-filing, Financial Sector, banking, driving license renewal, caste, birth, income, marriage certificates and Vehicle registration,.
- **Digital India for Better Governance:**
  - JAM (Jan Dhan- Aadhaar Mobile) Trinity for Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)
  - Digital Payments
  - UMANG: Single mobile app for more than 307 government services.
  - Digital Delivery of Services

Some of the Digital Services are,

- National Scholarship Portal
- Jeevan Pramaan
- eHospital and online
- Soil Health Card

- eNam (Electronic National Agriculture Market)
- DigiLocker
- eVisa
- eCourts
- National Judicial Data Grid
- GeM(Government eMarket Place)

- **Digital India for Employment, Entrepreneurship & Empowerment:** Digital Service delivery near door-step, common services centres.
- **Digital Literacy for the Masses:** The main aim is to make one person e-literate in all houses in the country.
- **BPO Promotion in Small Towns:** The main objective is to create employment opportunities among the local youth and also increase the growth of IT(Information Technology) and IT related services in each state of India.
- **Digital India for Make In India:** The main focus is to the promotion of Electronic manufacturing in India.
- **Initiatives in Emerging Technologies:**
  - CoE (Centre of Excellence) are being framework in the areas.
  - Internet of Things (IoT)
  - Internet Security
  - Large Area Flexible Electronics
  - Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
  - Tactile Graphics
  - Agriculture and Environment
  - ESDM
  - Fintech
  - Language Technology
  - Automotive Electronics
  - Virtual Augmented Reality
  - Medical Tech and Health Informatics
  - Block Chain
  - Gaming and Animation
  - Biometric
- **Cyber Security:** It has been frameworked to provide alerts to the users for preventing losses of financial and other important data by creating an inclusive and efficient cyber space for sustainable development known as cyber Swachhta Kendra.

V. THE NINE PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA

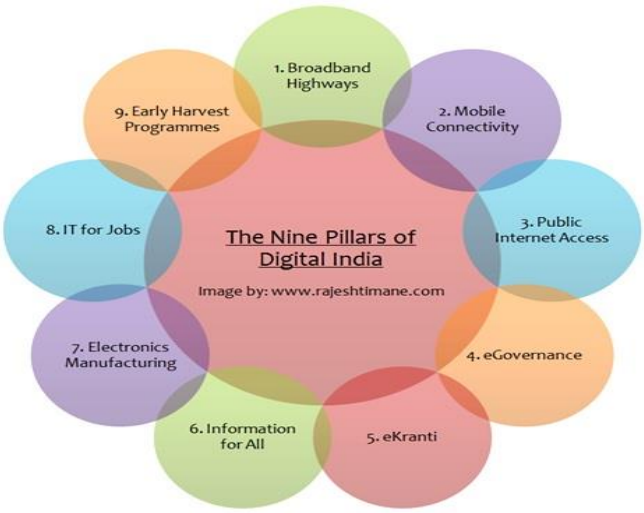

Fig 3

1. **Broadband Highways**
   The Broadband Highways would be executed through Department of Telecommunications in rural areas and at the same time focus would be on the fluctuating rules and regulations towards well organized development of the appropriate broadband highways in urban areas.

2. Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity

It would be accomplished through Department of Telecommunication and the main focus is on the increasing network penetration and coverage in the area to access phone.

3. Public Internet Access Programme – National Rural Internet Mission

It is a multi-functional system for service delivery through the Gram Panchayats and post offices would be transformed into the Multi-Service centre and is accomplished through department of posts.

4. eGovernance: Reforming Government through Technology

It helps to improve transactions including online applications and tracking, form simplification and reduction expanding ally between departments, usage of online storehouse like voter identity cards and certificates, integration of services and platforms like mobile platform, payment gateway, UIDAI and EDI.

5. eKranti: Electronic Delivery of Services

The eKranti was upgraded to encompass various elements that would strengthen technology in the spheres of:

- e-Education
- e-Healthcare
- e-Farming
- Security Services
- Financial Inclusion
- Judiciary
- Economic Planning
- Cyber Security

6. Information for All

Making information available to all by hosting websites and online strategies

7. Electronics Manufacturing: Target NET ZERO IMORTS by 2020

There are many ongoing programs in the domain of electronic manufacturing at present which will be fine tuned with measures that include development of clusters, incubators and the main focus is on the skill development

8. IT for Jobs

The main aim of IT for Jobs is to train people in villages and small towns for the IT industry jobs in order to foster ICT enabled growth

9. Early Harvest Programmes

Some of the immediate measures of Early Harvest Programme is technological improvements including e-Greetings (Government Greetings), providing Wi-Fi in all universities, implementing biometric attendance in all the government offices, Wi-Fi hotspots, secured emails, SMS based weather information, change in school books to eBooks, and disaster alerts and also implementing national portal for lost and found child.

VI. EN ROUTE TO THE DIGITAL FUTURE

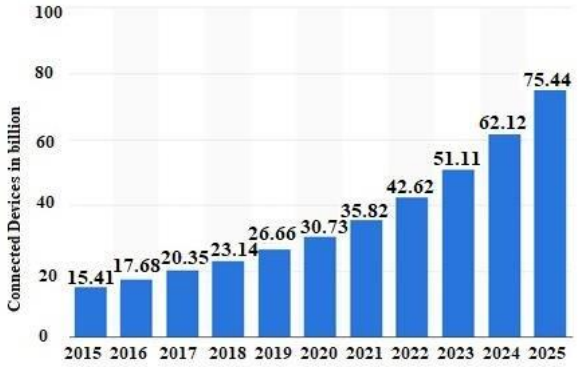

Fig 4

India's shift on the way to its digital future had begun a few decades back in the late 18th century. However, the unprecedented hastening in current times has brought sharply into view the baseness of the benefits that have already taken place in the technological industry. Both in India and globally, we stand at a conflux of several various synergistic developments: how to revamp efficiency, record keeping, data storage, processing in departments including finance, taxation, statistics etc. There are considerable efforts and progression were seen in the departments deal with number of beneficiaries

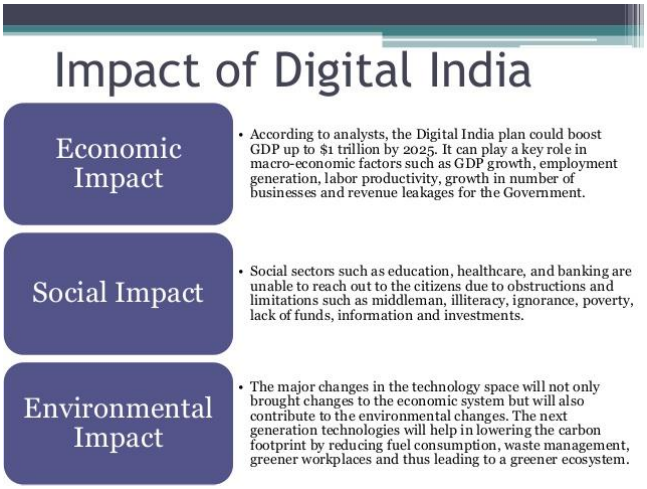

Fig 5

All these growths are thoroughly motivating and given rise to justifiable buoyancy about the India's digital economic future and the path is not easy at all. Accessibility of power and modesty of technology are no longer in the impediment. It is the citizen's fancy and capability to take in and understand fully them into the usual tasks of everyday life, normal business and governance. R. Chandrashekhar, former Chairman of Telecom Commission, Secretary in the Department of Telecommunications and Secretary in the Department of IT points out India's Digital Future in his article, *Towards a Digital Future:*

> E-Commerce, transportation, payment wallets, hotel/accommodation/cinema booking, local food and provision delivery services enabled by mobile apps are now familiar to most urban citizens and increasingly smaller town as well. Global products like IBM Watson already provide a range of medical services across countries including treatment recommendations based on patients records. But within India, well known products in healthcare such as Practo, Portea, Lybrate, etc are connecting doctors and medical professionals to patients in ways that make it easy to reach the right person from the comfort for your home. Apps like Byju's are making high quality educational content and services easily accessible at highly affordable costs similar established products albeit in smaller numbers exist in the agriculture sector too. But there are more new exciting efforts in the pipeline in social sectors like health care, agriculture, fintech/financial inclusion that hold the promise of scripting India's future riding on the back of and reinforcing the Digital India Program. (15) [R. Chandrashekhar] (2018)

VII. RESULT ANALYSIS

i. The most important and the successful result of Digital India inventiveness is the 'Jandhan – Aadhaar – Mobile initiative', which furnished a 'digital identity' to billions of Indian citizens.

ii. Another important outcome under the scheme of 'Digital Infrastructure' is the increased usage of internet accessibility, net banking and the mobile connectivity.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Digital India holds on to a promise of a skilled young India with education, well governance, financial inclusiveness and self reliance. Digital India inventiveness has been set afloat with an aim to digitally empower every single citizen of the country. The main purpose of Digital India initiative is to increase the knowledge of each and every citizen and make them independent. The Digital India programme's vision is digital awareness or empowerment among citizens. Digital technology becomes an essential aspect in boosting the step of economic growth of India in developing economic and social equity and by escalating information access, public services and markets and also overcoming India's infrastructure deficit. The 'Digital India' initiatives emphasize the enhancement of its three key factors in the creation of a nation- digital infrastructure, financial assistance to citizens and electronic delivery and improved digital literacy and digital empowerment of citizens. India is a developed and developing country for its fastest growth in the field of digitization. So this improvement helps to begin the exponential increase of data consumption by emerging new start-ups in the digital space that will lead to new livelihoods and wealth accumulation for millions of Indians.

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