

Opportunities and Challenges of Digital India

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Abstract

The term "Digital India" refers to the country's transformation towards a future knowledge economy and society. By enhancing online infrastructure and internet access, the Digital India programme makes sure that government services are made available to citizens electronically.

The digital India program's tagline, "POWER to EMPOWER," sums up the goal of the initiative, which is to move the country ahead economically, digitally, and effectively. Additionally, it seeks to connect Gram panchayat via broadband internet, advance e-governance, and change India into a networked knowledge economy. This essay aims to highlight various opportunities for the populace as well as various difficulties the Digital India programme has encountered.

Keywords: Digital India, Online Infrastructure

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

- To examine the idea behind the digital India program;
- To examine the difficulties the programme has encountered in putting it into practice;
- To examine the opportunities the programme offers for the populace

INTRODUCTION

An initiative The goal of DIGITAL INDIA is to get India ready for a knowledge-based future. The Digital India programme combines numerous existing programmes that will be reorganised and refocused as necessary. One of the government of India's key programmes is called "Digital India." It was introduced on July 1st, 2015, with the goal of transforming India into a knowledge-based society and economy.

Its goal is to make sure that citizens may access government services online without having to fill out paper forms. It also includes a plan to build high-speed internet networks in rural areas. It is one of the biggest steps the Indian government has taken to inspire its people and link the country's economy to the global knowledge-based economy.

NINE PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

1. Broadband Highways: By the end of 2016, it is intended to have the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) extend to 25000 village panchayats. The purpose of the nationwide internet infrastructure (NII), which will unify the country's network and cloud infrastructure, is to give various government departments up to the panchayat level high-speed connectivity and cloud platforms.

2. Universal access to phones: A mobile phone is a necessity in the modern world. Mobile connectivity is made available to undeveloped areas under this pillar. 42,300 villages will have access to mobile phone service during the next four years.

3. The programme for free public internet: access transforms post offices into multi-service centres.

4. E-governance: or reforming government through technology, includes electronic databases that allow all information to be effective and not manual, as well as re-engineering government business processes to make better use of IT.

5. E-Kranti: electronic service delivery: E-Kranti will include technology for justice, planning, security, planning, health, and education. It will also include technology for planning, farmers, and security.

6. Information: for all will include document and information hosting online. The government actively engages with citizens via social media and web-based platforms to inform them about MyGov.in, two-way communication between citizens and the government, and online messaging to citizens on special occasions/programs.

7. Electronic manufacturing target of net zero imports: The focus areas under this pillar are Fabs, Fab-less design, set-top boxes, VSATs, mobiles, consumers and medical, electronics, smart energy meters, smart cards, and micro-ATMs.

8. IT for Jobs: This will include training residents of smaller towns and villages for jobs in the IT sector and training service delivery personnel to operate profitable IT service delivery businesses. Additionally, telecom service providers will train employees to meet their own needs.

9. Early harvest initiatives: IT messaging platform, e-government greetings, and biometric attendance.

INITIATIVES UNDER DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME:

Digi Locker: A facility called Digi Locker enables people to digitally save important papers including their PAN cards, passports, mark sheets, and diplomas. Government-issued documents can be securely accessed through Digital Locker. It utilises the Aadhaar authenticity services. The goal is to replace the use of paper documents with the sharing of authenticated electronic documents among all government entities. The three most important stakeholders in the Digi Locker Facility are the Citizen, Issuer, and Requester.

- **Attendance.gov.in:** PM Narendra Modi created the website Attendance.gov.in to track the real-time attendance of government workers. The adoption of a standard Biometric Attendance System (BAS) throughout Delhi's central government offices marked the beginning of this programme.
- **MyGov.in** is a platform for exchanging opinions and ideas on issues of governance and policy. Through a 3D "Discuss," "Do," and "Disseminate" approach, the Digital India platform encourages citizen participation in governance.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** Mobile app is utilised by both individuals and government organisations to further the mission's objectives.
- **E-Hospital:** The e-Hospital application offers critical services like online registration, fee and appointment payment, online diagnostic reports, online blood supply availability inquiries, etc.
- **The National Scholarship Portal** is a one-stop resource offered by the Government of India for the entire scholarship application process, including student application submission, verification, sanction, and disbursement to final beneficiary.
- **Using the E-Sign framework,** citizens can electronically sign documents using their Aadhaar credentials.

OPPORTUNITIES OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

- **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY:** It would increase public accountability by requiring the electronic delivery of government services.

- **Stop OF CORRUPTION:** The Digital India programme will end the corruption system before it becomes the dominant feature of the nation.
- **REDUCTION OF PAPER WORK:** The Digital India programme seeks to reduce paper work, which will assist to safeguard the environment and conserve trees.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** A Digital India project, the national scholarship portal, would complete the scholarship application submission, verification, sanction, and disbursement duties previously necessary to get the scholarships.

CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL INDIA

- **DIVERSIFIED CULTURE:** In terms of culture, India is a diverse nation. Every state has its own distinct language, mannerisms, dietary preferences, laws, and traditions. The goal of the Digital India programme is to digitally integrate the entire nation. One of the biggest obstacles to the mission's implementation will be complete integration, or the fusion of language and technology.
- **DIFFERENT INTERNAL PROTOCOLS:** Depending on the hardware and software that each state uses, there are several internal protocols that could potentially cause connectivity issues. In order to standardise all software protocols, some type of directive is therefore required.
- **LACK OF COORDINATION AMONG DEPARTMENTS:** Digital India intends to change the nation into a knowledge economy that is empowered by technology. It's not a simple task. All government departments must coordinate their efforts and work together. The mission could never be fully carried out without effective departmental collaboration.
- **POVERTY AND ILLITERACY:** One of the cornerstones of the Digital India programme is public internet access. However, in India, illiteracy and poverty pose significant barriers to internet access. The high rate of illiteracy is a significant barrier to the internet's reach.
- **LACK OF CYBER SECURITY:** Internet use and cybercrime are inseparable foes in our modern society. The entire architecture should be planned so that any papers uploaded online by citizens are properly authenticated and made accessible to the appropriate people at any time with the appropriate authentication. The nation should have privacy norms to maintain cyber security.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE:** The national optical fibre network ensures that broadband is available throughout the entire nation. However, obtaining a nationwide broadband connection is a difficult task.
- **TIME OVERRUN:** The project has experienced multiple delays totaling two years. As a result, it also caused other projects to be delayed.

CONCLUSION

The government's ambitious "Digital India" programme aims to advance the country's digital and economic development. This effort has cut down on the number of hours that the technological sector must work. The Indian government is hoping that the Digital India programme would result in growth on a number of fronts. Even though the programme is having a lot of issues, with consistent attention and execution, the vision will undoubtedly become a reality. We should always be mentally prepared and equipped to deal with the difficulties that arise when putting the programme into practise on the ground. This will strengthen the program.

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