

Digital India: Opportunities & Challenges

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Abstract

Government of India takes an initiative of Digital India for providing high-speed internet networks to rural areas. Digital India Mission is a program that structures and plans to connect the rural areas of the country with high-speed internet networks. Even though Public Internet Access Program is one among the nine pillars of digital India there are some challenges like - small and medium scale industry has lot of struggles for adapting this digital technology, the speed of internet doesn't work fast, the capability of entry-level smartphones is restricted, Shortage of skilled workforce, Devoid of user-based education, Main shortcoming is that Lack of skilled manpower in the field of digital technology, Lack of user education etc. etc. So many opportunities are to be make available to improve such as post-office branches in the rural areas have been linked electronically, the Make in India initiative may be improved at the electronic manufacturing sector in India, by using the digital era healthcare and education sector has also seen a boost, improvement in digital online infrastructure to improve and enhance the economy of the country etc. As per this discussion different suggestions are put in this paper i.e. To make digital India a reality, policy changes are needed. Various policies in different areas should be apply to support this goal etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Digital India is an important campaign started by the Government of India in order to ensure the Government's services are made available to citizens electronically. It aims to digitally empower the country in the field of technology. On 1st July 2015 the Digital India campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Finance Ministry is a Government Ministry for this campaign. Official website of Digital India is <https://digitalindia.gov.in/> Government of India takes an initiative of Digital India for providing high-speed internet networks to rural areas. Digital India Mission was launched as a beneficiary to other government. Schemes includes Make in India, Startup India, Bharat Net, Standup India etc. Mission of Digital India focused on three areas:

1. Fulfilling the requirement of Digital infrastructure as a source of utility to every citizen.
2. To provide on demand Governance and services.
3. The digital empowerment of every citizen.

But this Digital India Mission has some drawbacks in the form of challenges and to overcomes these challenges some of the opportunities should be there to improve situation. So, this paper includes Advantages of digital India, Drawbacks of digital India, Challenges and Opportunities of digital India.

III) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: This paper mainly based on the Secondary Data. Researcher collects the information from Internet and various other online sources like journals, articles, research papers and expert opinions on the same subject matter.

IV) OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER:

1. To understand the digital India concept.
2. To find out the importance of digital India program.
3. To study the implementation of digital India
4. To study the challenges faced in implementation of digital India program
5. To study the opportunities of digital India
6. To find out practical solutions and innovative ideas to accomplish the vision of a digital India-a reality.

V) **DESCRIPTION /MAIN BODY OF PAPER:** Digital India is an impactful program of Government of India to transform the nation into digitally literate and to face the challenges of Digital India and to find out the opportunities of it. It also aims at strengthen and empowered the nation. Digital India is a today's generation program of the Government of India to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India Mission based on the motto 'Power to Empower'. Three core components of Digital India initiative are 1) digital infrastructure creation 2) digital delivery of services 3) digital literacy.

Objectives of Digital India: -

The major objectives of Digital India are listed below:

1. To provide high-speed internet in all gram panchayats across India
2. To provide easy access to Common Service Centre (CSC) in all the locality and in all country regions
3. Digital India is an initiative that combines a large number of ideas and thoughts into a single, comprehensive vision so that each of them is seen as part of a larger goal.
4. The Digital India Program also focuses on restructuring many existing schemes that can be implemented in a synchronized manner.

These e-governance projects were citizen-centric, they clearly pointed towards the need for a more comprehensive planning and implementation for the infrastructure required to be put in place to establish a more connected government. E-governance in India in the mid-1990s for wider sectoral applications with emphasis on citizen-centric services. The Digital India campaign was introduced to provide government services online through electronic systems.

The nine critical pillars of Digital India are 1) Broadband highways, 2) access to mobile connectivity everywhere in the country 3) public internet access program 4) e-governance 5) e-Kranti 6) information for everyone 7) electronics manufacturing 8) IT for Jobs and 9) harvest program

NINE PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM**Digital India consists of following Nine pillars: -**

- 1) Broadband Highways– These covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All – Rural, Broadband for All – Urban and National Information Infrastructure (NII).
- 2) Access to Mobile Connectivity Universally - This initiative focuses on network concept and filling the generation gaps in connectivity in the country
- 3) Public Internet Access Program- The two sub components of Public Internet Access Program are Common Services Centers (CSCs) and Post Offices as multi-service centers.

- 4) e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology- Government Process, to simplify and to make the government processes more efficient
- 5) e-Kranti - To improve the delivery of public services and to simplify the process of accessing them electronic Delivery of Services.
- 6) Information for All- To ensure transparency and availability of reliable data and for use, reuse and redistribution for the people of India.
- 7) Electronics Manufacturing- This is a pillar focuses on promoting electronics manufacturing in the country.
- 8) IT for Jobs- This pillar based on providing training to the youth and to give the skills required for availing employment opportunities in the IT/ITES sector.
- 9) Early Harvest Program- This pillar consists of a group of different short-term projects which have immediate effect on the Indian digital ecosystem like IT platform for mass messaging, crowd Sourcing of e_greetings, biometric attendance in the government offices, WI-FI in all universities etc.

Digital India Mission is a program that structures plans to connect the rural areas of the country with high-speed internet networks. Public Internet Access Program is one among the nine pillars of digital India.

Initiatives of Digital India

Many initiatives have taken up by the Government of India under the Digital India campaign. That important initiatives under Digital India are as follows:

- Digi Lockers
- E-Hospitals
- E-Path Shala
- BHIM – UPI Portal
- E-Health Campaigns
- E-Education Campaigns
- E-Kranti (Electronic Delivery of Services) etc.

1. **Digi Lockers** – This main initiative means ‘Digital Empowerment’ of the citizen by giving access to authentic digital documents to citizens with the help of digital document wallet
2. **E-Hospitals** – Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) working as a one-stop solution in connecting through a single digital platform.
3. **E-Path Shala** – E-Path Shala: NCERT created it as e-Path Shala demonstrates and spreads all educational e-resources for learning, including audio, textbooks, video, periodicals and numerous print and non-print materials through the website.
4. **BHIM** – Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) makes payment transactions easy, simple and quick using Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
5. **E-Hospitals:** It is a Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), an easy solution in reaching out to hospitals, patients and doctors through this digital platform.

VI) OPPORTUNITIES:

- Linking of Post office branches in the rural areas.
- The Make in India initiative may be improved at the electronic manufacturing sector in India
- At national level Digital India movement could boost GDP
- By using the digital era healthcare and education sector has also seen a boost

- Improvement in digital online infrastructure will improve and enhance the economy of the country
The key objective of this concept is to provide high-speed internet in every part of the country, remote areas and online infrastructure should be improve.

VII) CHALLENGES:

1. Small and medium scale industry has lot of struggles for adapting this digital technology i.e., new modern technology.
2. At our country the speed of internet, including the Wi-Fi hotspots, doesn't work fast as compare to other developed nations.
3. The capability of entry-level smartphones is restricted so it is a main obstacle for flexible internet access in the country.
4. Skilled workforce in digital technology is low which creates an adverse issue.
5. In India the daily speed of internet as well as the Wi-Fi hotspots, are slow as compared to other developed nations.
6. At the entry-level smartphones for smooth internet access may be Limited capability
7. Main shortcoming is that Lack of skilled manpower in the field of digital technology.
8. Lack of user education.

VIII) SUGGESTIONS:

To make digital India a reality Policy changes are needed. Few of the suggestions are –

1. Digital literacy should be there for empowering citizens.
2. Digital divide needs to be addressed.
3. Manufacturing content is not government's strength.
4. maximum connectivity with minimum cyber security risks should be needed for the success of digital India project.
5. To improve the skill of cyber security, cyber security course should be introduced.
6. Encouragement of international certification bodies to introduce various skill based cyber security courses.
7. Various policies in different areas should be apply to support effective participation of various departments for commitment and efforts.

IX) CONCLUSION:

The key objective of digital India concept is to provide high-speed internet in every part of the country, remote areas and online infrastructure should be improve. So different types of challenges are there like the speed of internet doesn't work fast, Shortage of skilled workforce in the field of digital technology, Devoid of user-based education, so many opportunities are also there to improve like post office branches in the rural areas have been linked electronically, The Make in India initiative may be improved at the electronic manufacturing sector in India, Improvement in digital online infrastructure to enhance the economy of the country. As per these different suggestions are put in this paper i.e. To make digital India as reality policy changes are needed. There is need for effective participation of various departments demanding commitment and efforts. Various policies in different areas should be apply to support this goal.

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