

DIGITAL INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

Gagandeep Singh

Assistant Professor, PG Department of Computer Science, Shaheed Baba Jiwan Singh Khalsa
College, Satlani Sahib, Amritsar

ABSTRACT

Digital India is the start-up of digital revolution. It is a reverie which is created by the Government of India to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically, even in remote areas by increasing Internet connectivity. The Digital India Programme, an initiative of honourable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, will transpire new development in every sector. The objective behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. The programme has one mission and one target that are to take nation forward digitally and economically. It requires a lot of efforts and dedication from all departments of government as well as private sector. If implemented properly, it will open various new opportunities for the citizens of the country. 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.

INTRODUCTION:

Digital India programme launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015 - with an objective of connecting rural areas with high-speed internet networks and improving digital literacy. The vision of this programme is to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. This will be for preparing the India the knowledge-based transformation and delivering good governance to citizens by synchronized and co-ordinate engagement with both Central Government and State Government. This programme has been envisaged by Department of Electronics and Information Technology and will impact ministry of communications & IT, ministry of rural development, ministry of human resource development, ministry of health & others. It would ensure that government services available to citizens electronically.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER:

- ❖ To study the concept of digital India programme.
- ❖ To find out the ponder ability of this programme.
- ❖ To find out the challenges faced in implementation of this programme.

VISION AREAS OF DIGITAL INDIA:

1. Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen:



It aims to provide high speed Internet connectivity as a core utility for delivery of services to citizens & to all gram panchayats. To provide digital identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable to every citizen and easy access to a Common Service Centre. People will be provided with safe and secure cyber space in the country.

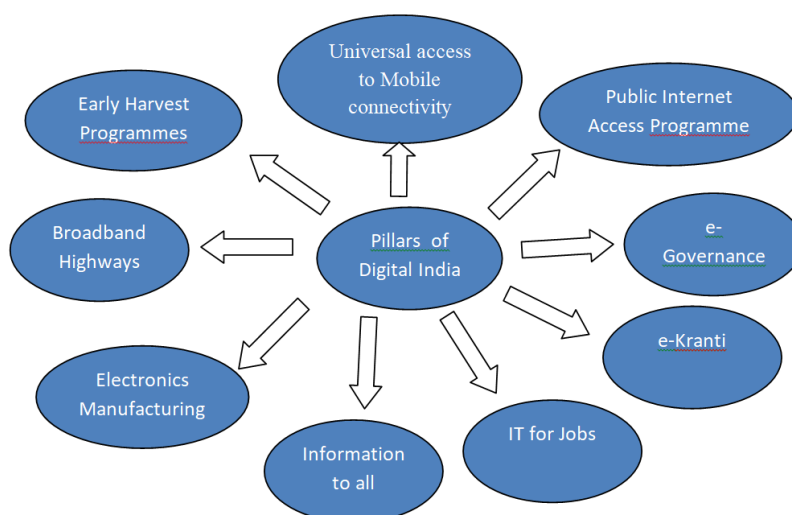
2. Governance and Services on Demand

Ensuring availability of services in real-time from online & mobile platforms and to make all citizen entitlements portable and available on the cloud to ensure easy access. Government services will be available online to digitally transformed services for improving ease of doing business. Transactions will be made easy through electronic medium. To provide high speed Internet Easy access to a Common Service Centre within their locality Shareable private space on a public cloud.

3. Digital Empowerment of Citizens

It is the process to empower citizen through universal digital literacy and to provide universal accessible digital resource. It aims to make available digital resources / services in Indian languages. It also provides collaborative digital platforms for participative governance. Citizens not required to physically submitting Govt. documents / certificates.

MAIN PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME:



❖ Broadband Highways

The first step is to provide high speed broadband highways through fiber optics that connect all the remote areas, government departments, universities, research and development etc. The aim is to cover 250000 village Panchayats under National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) by December 2016 Web based Broadband Highways Universal Access to Mobile Global Information IT Training for Jobs Electronic Manufacturing e-Governance e-Kranti Internet Access Harvest Programmes portals and Mobile apps will be developed to access online information while on the move.

❖ Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity

The aim is to increase network penetration and to provide mobile connectivity to 44000 villages. The government is taking steps to ensure that by 2018 all villages are covered through mobile connectivity. The aim is to increase network penetration and cover gaps in all 44,000 villages. General public will access the online government services with the

help of handheld devices. Nation is ready to be well-connected, efficient, and more productive in every aspect. . Broadband for all Rural National Information Infrastructure Broadband for all Urban Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity Cost: Rs. 16000 Cr FY: 2014-2018.

❖ **Public Internet Access Programme**

This change will open new doors of eservices to every citizen. The government aims to provide internet services to 2.5 lakh villages which comprises of one in every Panchayat by March 2017 and 1.5 lakh post offices in the next two years. These post offices will become Multi Service centres for the people.

❖ **e-Governance IT**

This would be used to make the delivery of government services more effectively. There would be integration of services and platform-UIDAI, Payment Gateway, Mobile Seva platform, Public redressal etc., through IT. All information would be available in electronic form. This governance will transform every manual work into fully automation system and online access to applications i.e. availability of all databases and information in electronic format. It enables effortlessly tracking of assignments.

❖ **e-Kranti**

The aim is electronic delivery of services to people be it education, health, financial inclusion or justice This Kranti will fully focus on digital knowledge program where education, health, farming, rights, financial and many more services will be delivered on a very high bandwidth.

❖ **Electronics Manufacturing**

The government is focusing on zero imports of electronics by 2020 through local manufacturing of items such as smart energy meters, micro ATMs, mobile, consumer and medical electronics. This milestone will create a huge base for electronics manufacturing in India with the aid of digital technologies and skills.

❖ **Information for ALL**

Open Data Platform and online hosting of information and documents would be facilitating open and easy access to information citizens. Online messaging to citizens on special occasions would be facilitated through emails.

❖ **IT for Jobs**

The aim is to train 10 million people in towns and villages for IT sector jobs in five years. It also aims to provide training to three lakh service delivery agents as part of skill developments.

❖ **Early harvest programs**

The implementation of Wi-Fi in all the universities covered in this. Public Wi-Fi Sports to access online information. All books will be converted into e books. Email will be made the primary mode of communication within government. Biometric Attendance System will be installed in all central government offices.

BENEFITS OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME:

Digital India programme is the beginning of digital revolution. It is a big initiative to empower people of the country. The digital India mission would make all the government

services available to people of country through common service delivery outlets. This would lead to inclusive growth by enabling access to education, healthcare and government services to all the citizens of the country. People can get better advice on health services. There would be more transparency as all the data would be made online and would be accessible to citizens of the country. E-Governance will help in reducing corruption and getting things done quickly. Digital locker facility will help citizen to digitally store their important documents like Pan Card, passport, mark sheets etc. It will help in getting things done easily. For example, when we need to open an account, we will give official details of our digital locker, where they can verify our documents. By this we can save time and the pain of standing in long queues for getting our documents would be reduced. It will help in decreasing documentation and reducing paper work. Digital India mission is away for cashless transactions. It can help small businesses. People can use online tools to expand their business. The programme would generate huge number of jobs in IT, electronics and telecommunication sector directly or indirectly.

CHALLENGES:

- ❖ The vulnerability to hacks increases
- ❖ The rural people might find it a really hard transition
- ❖ Confusion while using the digital payment methods might lead to deception
- ❖ The rate of cyber-crimes would increase to a drastic amount due to the lack of awareness

CONCLUSION

The vision of digital India is grand. It is a huge step towards building a truly empowered nation. If successful, it transforms citizen access to multimedia information, content and services. However, the goal is still far away since most of the nine pillars of digital India mission are facing serious challenges in implementation. It is imperative that focused persistent attention must be given to each and every pillar so that this programme does not end up in failure. In fact, we all should be mentally prepared for the change and be ready to face the challenges in implementing this policy, only then it would be possible to make this vision a reality.

REFERENCES

1. International Journal of Science Technology & Management www.ijstm.com
2. www.digitalindia.gov.in
3. www.akamai.com
4. Digital India Programme: Importance and Impact .Retrieved from <http://iasscore.in/national-issues/digitalindia-programme-importance-and-impact>
5. Goswami, H. (2016). Opportunities and Challenges of Digital India Programme. International Education and Research Journal, 2(11), 78-79.
6. Gulati, M. (2016). Digital India: Challenges and Opportunities. International Journal of Management, Information Technology and Engineering, 4(10), 1-4.
7. http://www.csi-india.org/communications/CSIC_April_2015.pdf
8. <http://digitalindia.gov.in/content/approach-and-methodology>