

# An exigency of Digital India

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**Abstract—** Digital India is a large umbrella program which will restructure and refocus several existing schemes to bring in a transformative impact. The Digital India vision aims to transform our country into a digital economy with participation from citizens and businesses. Today, every Nation wants to be fully digitalized that will empower society in a better manner. The 'Digital India' programme, an initiative of Government of India, will emerge new progressions in every sector and generates innovative endeavors for all. The motive behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. This 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. This initiative will ensure that all government services and information are available anywhere, anytime, on any device that is easy-to-use, seamless, highly-available and secured. With proven technologies like Cloud, Machine to-Machine (M2M), Analytics, Mobile (web-based interface), Social and Security at our disposal this transformation can be made into a reality. Companies all over the world desire to invest in Digital India the 21st century India, as a growth opportunity.

**Index Terms:** digital platform, empowered society, knowledge economy.

## INTRODUCTION

Digital India-the dream project of the Government and a blessing for the citizens could help in connecting the dots of various projects, past and present, to bring India to a global platform. It will help in moving with the universal trends of digital innovation and create positive impact in the lives of people - rural and urban, young and old. As per the World Bank report, a 10% increase in mobile and broadband penetration increases the per capita GDP by 0.81% and 1.38% respectively in the developing countries. If Digital India project could help increasing the broadband penetration across India by

50% and mobile penetration in rural India by 30% in next 2 years, the corresponding increase in GDP could be 9%. Adding to this growth and prosperity would be the impact of other pillars that would empower the citizens with gamut of Services at their fingertips. The benefits of the Digital India initiative are beyond imagination and the opportunities to innovate in the digital word for all stakeholders are limited only by their own imagination. The Aadhaar card would facilitate lifelong and unique identification and authentication of citizens across the country. This unique id along with digital platforms could enable efficient and equitable service delivery at anytime, anywhere and on any device. With increased penetration of mobile, they become obvious choice for attaining inclusiveness in others sectors like financial, education, healthcare to name a few. 115 million bank accounts were opened under the Jan Dhan project in less than a year, which was first step towards inclusion in financial systems for base of the pyramid. Moreover, with several industries undergoing digitization lately, local language content would help to gain adoption and to bridge the rural-urban divide. Problem of urbanization could be tackled by enabling equivalent infrastructure in rural areas or building satellite towns through 3 types of connectivity proposed by APJ Abdul Kalam namely physical, electronic and knowledge. The digital businesses models not only help in reaching to wider audience, but at the same time, make the services more affordable attractive and feasible for the end users. For example, entrepreneurial ventures such as Big Basket (grocery at home), Portea Medical (home healthcare), Super Profs (online education), etc are enabling inclusive growth by delivering high quality services to masses at low-cost. E Commerce is bringing paradigm shift in the delivery of sale and service and slowly replacing the traditional brick and mortar sellers. As per GSMA, the global business impact of connected life could be

\$4.3 trillion by 2020. India will be a big beneficiary of this, All these digital initiatives, technologies and services would together create a multiplier effect and transform individuals, governments, enterprises and societies towards greater prosperity Digital India initiative could help in achieving the objectives of Education for all. Information for all Healthcare for all, Broadband for all if the government focuses on strong leadership structure, enables private participation, creates detailed implementation plan with common 'citizen centric' framework and robust security/privacy measures, and ensures integrated efforts from all departments.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the purpose of in depth study the contents have been taken from interview, relevant books and articles from journals and websites The method used is analytical and descriptive Both primary as well as secondary source of Information have been taken.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A good Governing body requires a good communication platform to communicate with the stakeholders efficiently. Communicating with the citizens has been a big challenge for the government of India with widespread geography, massive population, and enormous linguistic & cultural diversity The way of communication has changed a lot from postal and telegraph era to print and broadcasting media to the era of Digital Communication The efficient way to communicate with the citizens of the world's largest democracy with a population of 1.2 billion is only possible by connecting with everyone on a digital platform. Though India is considered as the IT powerhouse of the world, there is a huge digital divide.

The Digital India initiative is a dream project of the Government to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It is centered on three vision areas:

- Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen The government is planning to provide high-speed internet connectivity to 250,000 Gram Panchayats, which will be a core utility for digital inclusion. The citizens will be provided with a digital identity which will be unique,

lifelong online, and valid There will be easy access to Common Service Centers and a shareable private space for every citizen on a public cloud.

- Governance and Services on Demand Under this vision, all the government departments will be seamlessly integrated with high-speed optical fiber, which will improve inter operability of these organizations and will result in real-time service delivery from online or mobile platform. Apart from this, the government is planning to make all citizen entitlements portable through cloud for easy and country-wide access and to digitally transform the services for improving ease of doing business in India. The government also plans to use the power of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for decision support systems & development.
- Digital Empowerment of Citizens. This vision is to empower citizens through digital literacy and universal access to digital resources. eg all documents to be available on cloud and in Indian languages. Government also wants to provide collaborative digital platforms for participatory governance of My Gov website for crowd sourcing ideas.

#### PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA

**Broadband Highways:** The first step is to provide high speed broadband highways through fiber optics that connect all the remote areas, government departments, universities, R&D etc Web based portals and Mobile apps will be developed to access online information while on the move.

**Universal Mobile Access** in the coming years network technologies like 3G, 4G and upcoming 5G will storm the speed Government is specially preparing to connect unconnected areas and speedy use of these technologies 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.

**Public Internet Access** Virtuous technologies that support cost containment collaboration, security services-on-the go, social-connect, and in-built intelligence that deliver remote access to any information or service available across the domain

This change will open new doors of e-services to every citizen.

e-Governance: This governance will transform every manual work into fully automation system. It will revolutionize the system in the following ways:

- Online access to applications le availability of all databases and information in electronic format.
- Effortlessly tracking of assignments.
- Interface between departments for superior production of work.
- Quickly respond analyze and resolve persistent problems and many more.

e-Kranti: 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 Physical boundaries no longer are a limitation when almost everyone and everything is a digital handshake away. Information for All: Websites and mobile apps will convey data and realistic participation and through social media. Everything is connected through virtual networks. Swift work flow and no delays due to wait in queues.

Electronics Manufacturing: This milestone will create a huge base for electronics manufacturing in India with the aid of digital technologies and skills The empowerment of manufacturing through the Internet of Things will enable intelligent workshops that demonstrate data driven operational excellence and decentralized production control systems within and beyond the physical factory walls.

IT for Jobs: The government is preparing to provide training and teaching skills to the youth for employment opportunities in the IT sector BPO industries will be established for the fastest growing segment of the Information Technology Enabled Services industry it offers e-services 24/7 in every field and gives more jobs potentials.

Early Harvest This programme will generate short timeline projects where every manual service is altered by e-service E-services like:

- Implementation of Wi-Fi in all the universities.
- Public Wi Fi Sports to access online gen.
- Educational books to e books.
- People will use the e-services for entertainment, weather information, latest updates etc.

- Replacement of manual attendance to Biometric procedure.

The Digital India vision aims to transform India into a digital economy with participation from citizens, businesses and promises to make India an important investment destination Sectors like financial, edification, healthcare, automobiles and many more all over the world is ready to contribute in this mega project New potentials will arise to change this development model Villages will turn into smart economic centers that connect farmers directly to e-markets to know the price and make them less vulnerable to the whims of weather CEO Google has shown interest in providing free public Wi-Fi in hundreds of Indian railroad stations, which are major transit and social hubs for their communities. This rebellion will open affordability of products and services in better ways Indians and others have worked together to shape the knowledge economy. Our contribution to sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be a foremost force of noble for world and planet.

#### IMPACTS OF DIGITAL INDIA

The Digital India project provides a huge opportunity to use the latest technology to redefine the paradigms of service delivery. A digitally connected India can help in improving social and economic condition of people living in rural areas 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.

#### THE IMPENDING CHALLENGES

The Digital India initiatives is an ambitious project of the Government and is, by far, the biggest ever conceived. There are many challenges discussed below that could come in the way of successful completion of the project:

- Approximate cost of implementing this mammoth project is Rs.1.13 trillion (including ongoing and new schemes).

- The National Optic Fiber Network (NOFN) project which is the back bone of the Digital India project has been delayed several times and is suffering two years' time overrun. The delayed project may lead to delay in other dependent projects and meeting the budget limit will be difficult.
- It is an umbrella project involving participation of several departments and demanding commitment & effort. Hence, strong leadership and timely support of all the involved entities will play a critical role.
- To achieve timely completion of the projects extensive private participation is necessary. The private participation in the government projects in India is poor because of long and complex regulatory processes.
- About 4 billion people in the world do not have internet connection and India comprises of 25% of them. India is the 4th largest smart phone market with almost 111 million smart phone users. Average monthly cost of 500 MB mobile data plan on prepaid is \$3.4 in India against \$35.8 in Brazil, \$15.5 in China and \$17 in Russia. Despite lowest data tariffs in the world, adoption of internet in India is not encouraging. Faster adoption of Internet will be difficult due to illiteracy, affordability and availability of mobile devices and data tariffs, lack of local language content, lack of regionally relevant Apps Still the use of Internet is low because of high data tariffs.
- Though the National Optic Fiber Network (NOFN) project is aiming to build a nationwide high speed broadband by the end of the year 2016-17 there are other supporting infrastructure deficits, such as lack of robust and large data centers to hold the data of entire country. In addition, the last mile connectivity and the physical infrastructure at customer premises are unaffordable by most of the rural Indians. Infrastructure fulfilment is necessary with the NOFN project.
- Nation Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report shows the rapid increase in cyber crime in India by 50 % from 2012 to 2013. There have been several incidences of cyber crime on corporate and individual level in the past few years.

Putting the data of 12 billion people on the cloud could be risky and could threaten the security of individuals and the nation. Hence, the Digital India project demands very strong network security at all levels of operation.

## CONCLUSION

The Digital India program is just the beginning of a digital revolution, once implemented properly it will open various new opportunities for the citizens. It is one of the highly ambitious programs of Indian government. The program is a multi-ministry program, with the involvement of central cabinet ministers, state governments etc. Various grand companies like Microsoft, Google and Fujitsu will also agreed be partner and help the success of Digital India initiative While there are many obstacles in the path of Digital India program, one major of which is electricity But this problem will soon be solved as there will be pressure on local leaders to get electricity in their village when Digital India program will be running in the nearby villages IT gives employment to about 30 lakh people Once Digital India becomes reality, it can give jobs to five crore plus people.

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