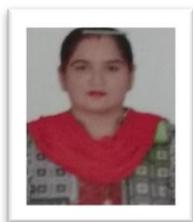


# A Move towards Digital India: Initiative Taken



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## Abstract

The Digital India programme is a leading programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy with good governance for citizens by bringing synchronization and co-ordination in public accountability, digitally connecting and delivering the government programs and services to mobilize the capability of information technology across government departments. The initiative also aims to bridge India's digital segment and bring big investments in the technology sector. The motive behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. Today, every nation wants to be fully digitalized and this program strives to provide equal benefit to the user and service provider. The government of India expanded its Digital India programme, launching new initiatives and broadening the scope of existing ones, to make more services accessible to the masses. Under the programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to provide government services online, expand Internet connectivity to rural areas and boost manufacturing of electronic goods in the country. In this Paper an attempt has been made to discuss certain initiative taken by Government of India towards Digital India.

**Keywords:** Digital India, Electronic payment, Government, Network, Programme, Transparent.

## Introduction

Initiative for Digital India was taken by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PM Modi has been quite vocal about transforming India into a digitally empowered society with his pet project and most talked about initiative lately – Digital India. The Digital India programme is a leading programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy with good governance for citizens by bringing synchronization and co-ordination in public accountability, digitally connecting and delivering the government programs and services to mobilize the capability of information technology across government departments. The initiative also aims to bridge India's digital segment and bring big investments in the technology sector. The motive behind the concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. Today, every nation wants to be fully digitalized and this program strives to provide equal benefit to the user and service provider. "Faceless, Paperless, Cashless" is one of stated role of Digital India. As a part of promoting cashless transactions and converting India into less-cash society, various modes of digital payments are available such as Banking cards, USSD (the Unstructured Supplementary Service Data), AEPS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment System), UPI, Mobile wallets, Banks Pre-paid Cards, Points of Sale, Internet Banking, Mobile Banking and Micro ATMs.

## Objective of the Study

1. To understand the concept of Digital India
2. To aware about new pillars and initiative of Digital India
3. To know about the innovative ideas of government to accomplish the vision of Digital India in different field.

## Objectives of Digital India Initiative

1. To ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically.
2. To provide universal digital literacy and make digital sources easily accessible. The services are also provided in Indian languages for active participation.
3. Focus on providing high speed internet services to its citizens and make services available in real time for both online and mobile

4. platform. People will be provided with safe and secure cyber space in the country
5. To transform ease of doing business in the country.
6. Focus on providing broadband services in all villages of the country, tele-medicine and mobile healthcare services and making the governance more participative.

#### **Key Projects of Digital India Program**

The government expanded its Digital India programme, launching new initiatives and broadening the scope of existing ones, to make more services accessible to the masses. The initiatives launched under the Digital India programme include projects in the areas of digital infrastructure, digital empowerment, on-demand government services and promotion of industry. Under the programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to provide government services online, expand Internet connectivity to rural areas and boost manufacturing of electronic goods in the country. The services launched include electronic payments for government services, a geographical information system (GIS)-based decision-support system, a request for proposal for selecting private cloud service providers for government departments, the setting up of an online laboratory for students to perform virtual experiments for all Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools, the incubation of projects in the area of chip-to-system design and the development of a native operating system that will support text-to-speech technology for nine regional languages. The government is also working on the concept of digital villages—rural areas that will have telemedicine facilities, virtual classes and solar power-based Wi-Fi hot spots. Digital governance is the best way to reach the remotest corners of the country. Several projects/products have already launched or ready to be launched as indicated below:

#### **Digital Locker System**

Digital Locker System aims to minimize the usage of physical documents and enable sharing of e-documents across agencies. The sharing of the e-documents will be done through registered repositories thereby ensuring the authenticity of the documents online.

#### **MyGov.in**

MyGov.in has been implemented as a platform for citizen engagement in governance, through a “Discuss”, “Do” and “Disseminate” approach. The mobile App for MyGov would bring these features to users on a mobile phone.

#### **eSign Framework**

eSign Framework This initiative would enable users to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication.

#### **Swach Bharat Mission Mobile App**

Swach Bharat Mission Mobile App The app will enable organizations and citizens to access information regarding the cleanliness drive and achieve the goals of the mission.

#### **National Scholarship Portal**

National Scholarship Portal This initiative aims at making the scholarship process easy. From submitting the application, verification, sanction and

disbursal to end beneficiary, everything related to government scholarships can be done on this single portal online.

#### **The Online Registration System (ORS)**

The Online Registration System (ORS) under the e-Hospital application has been introduced. This application provides important services such as online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online etc.

#### **Digital India Platform**

Digital India Platform This initiative will involve digitization of data and records on a large scale in the country to make easy and quick access possible to the citizens.

#### **Bharat Net**

Bharat Net Under this initiative, a high-speed digital highway will connect all 250,000 gram panchayats of the country. This is the world's largest rural broadband project using optical fibre.

#### **Wi-fi Hotspots**

Wi-fi Hotspots Development of high speed BSNL Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the country is yet another initiative to improve digital connectivity in the country.

#### **Next Generation Network**

Next Generation Network Launched by BSNL, this service will replace 30-year old telephone exchanges to manage all types of services like voice, data, multimedia and other types of communication services.

#### **Electronics Development Fund**

Electronics Development Fund The fund will be set up to support the manufacturing of electronics products that would help create new jobs and reduce import. The funds will promote innovation, research and product development to create a resource pool within the country.

#### **Centre of Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT)**

Centre of Excellence on Internet of Things (IoT) In partnership with NASSCOM, DeitY and ERNET in Bangalore, Centre of Excellence will enable rapid adoption of IoT technology and encourage a new growth strategy. IoT will help the citizens in services like transport system, parking, electricity, waste management, water management and women's safety to create smart cities, smart health services, smart manufacturing and smart agriculture, etc.

#### **Certain Major Projects under the Initiative Manufacturing of Electronics**

The government is focusing on zero imports of electronics. In order to achieve this, the government aims to put up smart energy meters, micro ATMs, mobile, consumer and medical electronics.

#### **Provide Public Access to Internet**

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.

#### **Highways to have Broadband Services**

Government aims to lay national optical fibre network in all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats. Broadband

for the rural will be laid by December 2016 and broadband for all urban will mandate communication infrastructure in new urban development and buildings. By March 2017, the government aims to provide nationwide information infrastructure.

#### **Easy access to Mobile Connectivity**

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.

#### **e-Governance**

The government aims to improve processes and delivery of services through e-Governance with UIDAI, payment gateway, EDI and mobile platforms. School certificates, voter ID cards will be provided online. This aims for a faster examination of data.

#### **IT Training for Jobs**

The government aims to train around 1 crore students from small towns and villages for IT sector by 2020. Setting up of BPO sectors in North eastern states is also part of the agenda.

#### **e-Kranti**

This service aims to deliver electronic services to people which deals with health, education, farmers, justice, security and financial inclusion.

#### **Global Information**

Hosting data online and engaging social media platforms for governance is the aim of the government. Information is also easily available for the citizens.

MyGov.in is a website launched by the government for a 2-way communication between citizens and the government. People can send in their suggestions and comment on various issues raised by the government, like net neutrality.

#### **Early Harvest Programs**

Government plans to set up Wi-fi facilities in all universities across the country. Email will be made the primary mode of communication. Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System will be deployed in all central government offices where recording of attendance will be made online.

#### **Conclusion**

Digital India is actually a project interwoven among the various departments of the government - Education, Agriculture, and IT etc. Headed and proposed by the 'Communications and Information technology' ministry, the Digital India project surely promises bright returns. Once D I (Digital India) is properly implemented, it'll be a golden transformation

for India. Initial plans of the government state that the D I project will be connecting 250,000 villages, suburbs etc. with high speed internet connection. The "Bharat Broadband Network Limited" (BBNL) will be playing a crucial role in this. Digitalization of data will make things much more efficient and fast, paper work will rapidly decline as well. Also the ties between the government, private sectors and the public will get way stronger this way. With a huge number of villages connected via internet, our villages will undergo a huge change from so called backward regions to digitally equipped areas. It is scheduled to be completed by 2019. Many of the leading companies have already invested heavily in this mission. Ambani has recently declared that reliance will invest 2.5 lac crore in DI. To conclude the digital India program is a flagship programme of the government of India to shape by connectivity and technological opportunity. It is a good effort to develop India. Although, digital India programme is facing some barriers, yet it has a great impact on India to make the best future of every citizen. We Indians and others should work together to shape the knowledge economy. More employment prospects will open for the youth that will boost the nation's economy. Digital India campaign is a welcome step in shaping India of the 21<sup>st</sup> century powered by connectivity and the technological opportunity. A strong digital security and low risk will enhance the spread of digital/cashless economy. Modi's demonetization initiative has been a boon for India's e-payment providers. Today, the cost of connectivity, cost of mobility, cost of hardware, device and so on is reducing. However, it is just the start to the 'Digital India' vision, and we have a long way to go.

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