Research Article

DIGITAL INDIA (A KEY TOWARDS SMART INDIA)

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A R T I C L E I N F O	A B S T R A C T
	It is a well-known fact that digital India is the outcome of many innovations and Technological advancements. These transform the lives of people in many ways and will empower the society in a better manner. The Digital India drive is a dream project of the Indian Government to remodel India into a knowledgeable economy and digitally empowered society, 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. It is one which, if handled properly, could bring about real and tangible changes in the Indian economic structure. Today, every nation wants to be fully digitalized and this programme strives to provide equal benefit to the user and service provider. 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

The digital world that we live in today is that where every civilian has a bright prospect to transform the lives in many ways that were hard to envision just a couple of years ago. It is the outcome of several innovations and technology advances. All educational institutions and government services will soon be able to provide I-ways round the clock. Digital India 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. Companies all over the world desire to invest in Digital India-the 21st century India, as a growth opportunity. 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. Digital India is a Rs. 1.13 lakh core initiative launched by the Indian government in order to create a fully 'tomorrow-ready', internet enabled e-government for improved responsibility, responsiveness and transparency. Its three major goals can be listed as follows:

1. Create and improve the digital infrastructure of the country to enable every citizen, everywhere to be connected to the World Wide Web (WWW).
2. Encourage "cashless" transactions and improve digital literacy.

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3. Provide seamless cross-department integration and availability of on- demand, immediate and real-time services from these departments.

Some of the initiatives planned under this movement include:

1. Digital lockers to minimize usage of paper documents.
2. mygov.in; a platform for citizens to interact and approach the government in real-time.
3. Swachh bharat mission application for smart phones.
4. e-sign; allowing citizens to sign documents digitally.
5. e-hospital; allowing citizens access to medical information, guidance and therapy over the internet in addition to booking appointments, getting reports and checking blood availability.
6. BSNL to deploy nationwide network of Wi-Fi hotspots.
7. Center of excellence on internet of things (iot) in association between the government and private organizations.

Objectives of the Study

- To know how the technologies and connectivity will come together to make an impact.
- To identify the overall aspects of digital governance this will improve the quality of life of the citizens.
- To know the Opportunity and challenges in digital technologies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Greenstein and Ferman– "electronic commerce is use of electronic transmission medium (telecommunication) to engage in the exchange, including buying and selling of

products and services requiring transportation either physically or digitally from location to location".

Prof.Singh –"Digital India programme, prepared by the Department of Electronic and Information Technology. With technology taking over almost all of manual labour, and the evident lack of skilled labour in India, It is imperative to have the country's labour force skilled in Information Technology. Mirmiran & Shams-"Domestic policies regarding telecommunication, financial services and distribution and delivery would provide inputs for e-commerce trade related negotiations. Researches show developing economies has more possibilities of gaining advantages of e-commerce than the developed economies as developing economies have wider scope of reducing inefficiencies and increase production".

METHODOLOGY

The data used for the presentation are secondary in nature. For this purpose, various magazines and journals have been used as it is a conceptual paper. Thus, the focus is to know more about the concept, its application and the impact on economy via other parameters. Therefore, qualitative and quantitative data have been used.

Advantages

1. Creation of Digital Infrastructure and Electronic Manufacturing in Native India.
2. Digital Empowerment of Native Indian People.
3. Delivery of all Government Services electronically (E-Governance).
4. A Digital Identification which will verify the end user.
5. A Mobile for worldwide access to all services.
6. A Bank account for Immediate Benefit Transfers of subsidies and payments.
7. The program also aims to eliminate all electronics imports from foreign countries by 2020 and make India a electronics manufacturing super power.

Other Advantages

- It will help in decreasing crime if applied on whole.
- It will help in getting things done easily.
- It will help in decreasing documentation.
- Some of the services which will be provided through this desire effort are Digital Locker, e-education, e-health, e-sign and nationwide scholarship portal.
- It will ostensibly create a lot of jobs.
- It will be a boost to industry; both large and small enterprises.

Digital India without a doubt is a very commendable project and deserves full support. As far no disadvantages could be noticed as it's an initiative we are talking about. However, the initiative also lacks many crucial components including lack of legal framework, absence of privacy and data protection laws, civil liberties abuse possibilities, lack of parliamentary oversight for e-surveillance in India, lack of intelligence related reforms in India, insecure Indian cyberspace, etc.

Impact

Mobile and internet banking can improve the financial inclusion in the country and can create win-win situation for all parties in the value-chain by creating an interoperable ecosystem and revenue sharing business models. Telecom operators get additional revenue streams while the banks can reach new customer groups incurring lowest possible costs. The digital inclusion among the country ensures the manufacturing sector to revive the electronics manufacturing. With the Make in India campaign and Digital India, the nation is planning to achieve net zero imports by 2020. This ensures the exports will be equal to the imports and this helps in the economic development of the nation. With the introduction of mobile connectivity in all villages, unique single portal can be maintained for all government related services. This ensures that all databases and information should be in electronic form and not manual. Next to crude oil, Electronics hardware comprises major parts of imports in India. The programme will generate huge number of IT, Telecom and Electronics jobs, both directly and indirectly. Success of this programme will make India Digitally empowered and the leader in usage of IT in delivery of services related to various domains such as health, education, agriculture, banking, etc. The Digital India program is just the beginning of a digital revolution, once implemented properly it will open various new opportunities for the citizens.

CONCLUSION

The Digital India project itself will create employment opportunities for 17 million people directly or indirectly which will help in fighting against unemployment problems in India. Government has planned to give IT training to 100 million students in smaller towns and villages as employment opportunity in IT sector is very high in India. In the next 5 years, India will emerge to be a leader in using IT in sectors like health, defense, education, agriculture and banking. Also the service sectors will be digitally empowered. In the field of education, it also assures broadband connectivity in all panchayats, schools, libraries and other public places. Apart from Broadband connectivity, every village is provided with universal phone connectivity across the country.

Reference

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