



## DIGITAL INDIA THE FUTURE OF INDIA

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**ABSTRACT--** Digital India is a campaign launched by the Government of India to ensure that Government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. It was launched on 1 July 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India consists of three core components. These include: The Government of India entity Bharat Broadband Network Limited which executes the National Optical Fibre Network project will be the custodian of Digital India (DI) project. BBNL had ordered United Telecoms Limited to connect 250,000 villages through GPON to ensure FTTH based broadband. This will provide the first basic setup to achieve towards Digital India and is expected to be completed by 2017. The government is planning to create 28,000 seats of BPOs in various states and set up at least one Common Service Centre in each of the gram panchayats in the state. Digital India was launched by the Prime Minister of India Shri. 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 Digital India programme is inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing and job opportunities etc. and it is centred on three key areas – Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen, Governance & Services on Demand and Digital Empowerment of Citizens.

**Key words:** National Optical Fibre Network, Digital Empowerment, broadband Internet connectivity.

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### INTRODUCTION

Out of 10% English speaking Indians, only 2% reside in rural areas. Rest everyone depends on their vernacular language for all living their lives. However, as of now, email addresses can only be created in English language. To connect rural India with the Digital India, the Government of India impelled email services provider giants including Gmail, office and relief to provide email address in regional Languages. However, the email provider companies have shown positive sign and are working in the same process. An Indian based company, Data Xeon Technologies Pvt Ltd, has launched world's first free linguistic email address under the name 'DATAMA' which allows to create email ids in 8 Indian languages, English; and 3 foreign languages – Arabic, Russian and Chinese. Over the period of time the email service in 22 languages will be offered by Data XGen Technologies. **Services** Some of the facilities which will be provided through this initiative are Digital Locker, e-education, e-health, e-sign and national scholarship portal. As the part of Digital India, Indian government planned to launch Botnet cleaning centers.

### DIGI LOCKER

Digi Locker is a "digital locker" service launched by the Government of India in February 2015 to provide a secure dedicated personal electronic space for storing the documents of resident Indian citizens.[2] The storage space (maximum 10 MB at the time of launching & now upgraded to 1GB) is linked to the Unique Identification Authority of India (Aadhaar number) of the user. The space can be utilized for storing personal documents like University certificates, Permanent account number (PAN) cards, voter id cards, etc., and the URLs of the e-documents issued by various issuer departments. There is also an associated facility for e-signing documents. The service is intended to minimize the use of physical documents and to provide authenticity of the e-documents. It will also provide secure access to government issued documents. It is also intended to reduce administrative expenses of government departments and agencies and to make it easy for the residents to receive services. To sign up the user must possess an Aadhar Card and a mobile number linked to it (Now linking to Aadhar number is not mandatory - You just need a mobile number to create an account in Digi locker).

Digi Locker is one of the key initiatives under the Digital India Programme. This was released by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India.

Digital Locker facility will help citizens to digitally store their important documents like PAN card, passport, mark sheets and degree certificates. Digital Locker will provide secure access to Government issued documents. It uses authenticity services provided by Aadhaar. It is aimed at eliminating the use of physical documents and enables sharing of verified electronic documents across government agencies. Three key stakeholders of DigiLocker are Citizen, Issuer and requester.

#### **ATTENDANCE.GOV.IN**

*Attendance.gov.in* is a website, launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015 to keep a record of the attendance of Government employees on a real-time basis.<sup>[19]</sup> This initiative started with implementation of a common Biometric Attendance System (BAS) in the central government offices located in Delhi.

#### **MYGOV.IN**

*MyGov.in* is a platform to share inputs and ideas on matters of policy and governance. It is a platform for citizen engagement in governance, through a "Discuss", "Do" and "Disseminate" approach.

#### **SBM MOBILE APP**

*Swachh Bharat* Mission (SBM) Mobile app is being used by people and Government organisations for achieving the goals of *Swachh Bharat* Mission.

#### **ESIGN FRAMEWORK**

eSign framework allows citizens to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication.

#### **E-HOSPITAL**

The eHospital application provides important services such as online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online etc.

#### **NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL**

National Scholarship Portal is a one step solution for end to end scholarship process right from submission of student application, verification, sanction and disbursement to end beneficiary for all the scholarships provided by the Government of India.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **DIGITAL INDIA WEEK**

At the launch ceremony of Digital India Week by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on 1 July 2015,<sup>1</sup> top CEOs from India and abroad committed to invest 224.5 lakh crore (US\$3.3 trillion) towards this initiative. The CEOs said the investments would be utilized towards making smartphones and internet devices at an affordable price in India which would help generate jobs in India as well as reduce the cost of importing them from abroad.

#### **SILICON VALLEY**

Leaders from Silicon Valley, San Jose, California expressed their support for Digital India during PM Narendra Modi's visit in September 2015. Facebook's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, changed his profile picture in support of Digital India and started a chain on Facebook and promised to work on WiFi Hotspots in rural area of India. Google committed to provide broadband connectivity on 500 railway stations in India. Microsoft agreed to provide broadband connectivity to five hundred thousand villages in India and make India its cloud hub through Indian data centres. Qualcomm announced an investment of US\$150 million in Indian startups. Oracle plans to invest in 20 states and will work on payments and Smart city initiatives. However back home in India, cyber experts expressed their concern over internet.org and viewed the Prime Minister's bonhomie with Zuckerberg as the government's indirect approval of the controversial initiative. *The Statesman* reported, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chemistry with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg at the social media giant's headquarters in California may have been greeted enthusiastically in Silicon Valley but back home several social media enthusiasts and cyber activists are disappointed." Later the Prime Minister office clarified that net neutrality will be maintained at all costs and vetoed the Basic Internet plans.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE DIGITAL LOCKER**

Each user's digital locker has the following sections.<sup>[5]</sup>

**My Certificates:** This section has two subsections:

**Digital Documents:** This contains the URI's of the documents issued to the user by government departments or other agencies.

**Uploaded Documents:** This subsection lists all the documents which are uploaded by the user. Each file to be uploaded should not be more than 10MB in size. Only pdf, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp and gif file types can be uploaded.

**My Profile:** This section displays the complete profile of the user as available in the UIDAI database.

Following is the security measures used in the system

1. *Mobile Authentication based Sign Up*
2. *ISO 27001 certified Data Centre*
3. *Data Redundancy*
4. *Timed Log Out*
5. *Security Audit*

Digital Technologies which include Cloud Computing and Mobile Applications have emerged as catalysts for rapid economic growth and citizen empowerment across the globe. Digital technologies are being increasingly used by us in everyday lives from retail stores to government offices. They help us to connect with each other and also to share information on issues and concerns faced by us. In some cases they also enable resolution of those issues in near real time. The objective of the Digital India Group is to come out with innovative ideas and practical solutions to realise Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a digital India. Prime Minister Modi envisions transforming our nation and creating opportunities for all citizens by harnessing digital technologies. His vision is to empower every citizen with access to digital services, knowledge and information. This Group will come up with policies and best practices from around the world to make this vision of a digital India a reality. BJP Election Manifesto 2014 aimed to nurture a Digital India thereby making every household and every individual digitally empowered. The party aims to make every household digitally literate with a goal to make India the Global Knowledge hub, with IT being a major driver and engine of growth. The manifesto has a strong focus on e-Governance as BJP believes IT is a great enabler for empowerment, equity and efficiency. The party is focusing on: broad banding villages; participative governance; digital learning; tele-medicine and mobile healthcare; open source and open standard; E-Bhasha; and others.

Right from the day of assuming power, Digital India and Make in India have been two big USPs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The first steps were taken with the launch of MyGov.in portal. Only a couple of weeks ago, Narendra Modi launched his mobile app to connect further with the netizens. Over the last one year, several initiatives have been taken for introduction of Information Technology to empower people in areas relating to health, education, labour and employment, commerce etc. Digital India Week has been launched with an aim to impart knowledge to people and to empower themselves through the Digital India Programme of Government of India.

### IMPACT

The estimated impact of Digital India by 2019 would be cross cutting, ranging from broadband connectivity in all Panchayats, Wi-fi in schools and universities and Public Wi-Fi hotspots. 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. Digital empowerment of citizens will pay emphasis on universal digital literacy and availability of digital resources/services in Indian languages. The programme will be implemented in phases from 2014 till 2018. The source of funding for most of the e-Governance projects at present is through budgetary provisions of respective ministries/departments in the central or state governments. Requirements of funds for individual project(s) for Digital India will be worked out by respective nodal ministries/departments but according to government estimate it will cost Rs 113,000 crore. To implement this the government is planning to strengthen National Informatics Center (NIC) by restructuring it to support all central government departments and state governments. Positions of chief information officers (CIO) would be created in at least 10 key ministries so that e-Governance projects could be designed, developed and implemented faster. Apart from this, the DeitY would create four senior positions within the department for managing the programme say additional secretary, Digital India; joint secretary, infrastructure development; joint secretary, capacity building and digital enablement; and joint secretary, IT applications in uncovered areas & process re-engineering.

### CONCLUSION

This plan will really ensure the growth and development in India especially in the rural areas by connecting rural regions and remote villages with high-speed internet services. The overall project monitoring will be under the Prime Minister himself. Citizens of digital India may improve their knowledge and skill level after getting covered under the umbrella of internet. It is an ambitious project will benefit everyone especially villagers who travel long distance and waste time and money in doing paper works for various reasons. It is a most effective version (with nine pillars which are broadband highways, public Internet access programme, mobile connectivity everywhere, e-Kranti, e-Governance, information for all, IT for jobs, early harvest programmes and electronics manufacturing) of already existing National e-Governance Plan.

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