Digitization of Indian Economy

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ABSTRACT:

We are living in arena of technologies and digital world. The digital world is a world where the best possible use is made of digital technologies. The 'Digital India' program, an origination of honorable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, targets to make government services available to people digitally and enjoy the benefit of the newest information and technological innovations. It is a program to prepare India for a knowledge future. The motive behind the concept is to connect rural areas with high speed internet network and improving digital literacy. Digital technologies which include cloud computing and mobile applications transpire as the catalysts for shaping our world.

The Digital India program faces the serious barriers in implementation. This research is an effort to overcome these barriers and to find some remedies for providing better future to everyone.

The motto of this research is to find out how the government services can be available to every citizen electronically and improve the quality of life of every citizen.

KEYWORDS:

Indian economy, Internet connectivity, Digital control, e-services, Cash to Cashless transition, Mobile applications, Digital India

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This paper is based on secondary data and on various views of different authors, magazines, journals, books, government publications etc.

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of this paper is to study how the Indian economy will be affected by digitalization and what will be its benefits and challenges.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we can't imagine our life without technology. In the twenty-first century, one of

the most important technologies is the power of the digitization. It is a system, which allows individuals to communicate globally. Digital India is a program to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It was launched on 2nd July, 2015 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 consists of three core components as follows:

- The creation of digitalinfrastructure
- Delivering servicesdigitally
- Digitalliteracy

Digital India is an umbrella program which covers many departments. This initiative will ensure that government services and information are available anywhere, anytime on any device that are user friendly and secured with Digital India project. The government is ready for the big program by connecting every service with e-power. The aim of Digital India

is to avail digital services in Indian languages. Digital India initiative could help in achieving the objectives of:

- Education, Information and Broadband forall
- Leadershipstructure

VISION OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM:

- Digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen: This vision provides high speedinternet as a core utility public services like land records, certificates etc. will be madeavailable.
- Governance and services on demand: Under this vision, every government servicesor information is available in real time from online and mobileplatforms.
- Digital empowerment of citizens: All digital resources will be available universallyin Indian languages. All documents and certificates to be available on thecloud.

INDIAN DIGITALIZATION STRUCTURE:

transformativeimpact.
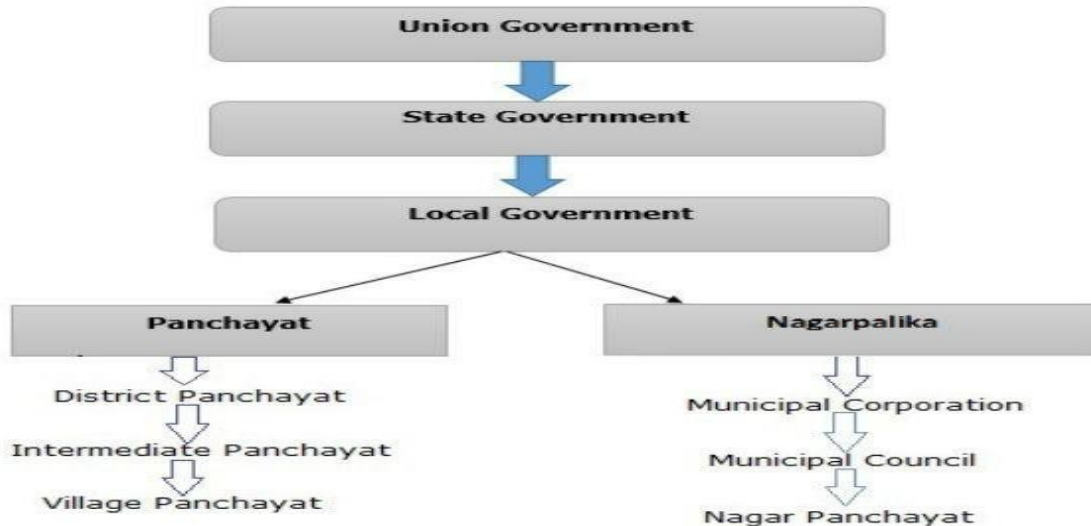
SCOPE OF OVERALL PROGRAM:

- The digital India is a great plan to develop India for a knowledgefuture.

- On being transformation - to realize

  IT (Indian Talent) + IT (Information

  Technology) = IT (India Tomorrow).

- The program pulls together many schemes like e-Health, e-Sign, e-Educationetc.

- It weaves together a large number

  of ideas and thoughts into a

  single,comprehensive goal so that

  each of them is seen as part of a

  largergoal.

- Each individual element stands on its own. But is also a part of the largestpicture.

- The common branding of program as Digital India highlights their

PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA:

The Government of India hopes to achieve growth on multiple fronts with the Digital India program. Specifically, the government aims to target nine 'Pillars of the Digital India' that they identify as being:

Broadband Highways:

- This covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All Rural, Broadband forAll Urban and National InformationInfrastructure.

- Under Broadband for All Rural, 250 thousand village Panchayats would be covered by December, 2016. DoT will be the Nodal Department and the project cost is estimated to be approximately ₹32,000crores.

- Under Broadband for All Urban, Virtual Network Operators would be leveragedfor service delivery and communication infrastructure in new urban development and buildings would bemandated.

- National Information Infrastructure would integrate the networks like SWAN, NKNand NOFN along with cloud enabled National and State DataCentres.

Public Internet Access Programme:

- The two sub components of Public Internet Access Programme are CommonService Centres (CSC) and Post Offices as multi-servicecentres.

- Common Service Centres would be strengthened and its number would be increasedfrom approximately 135,000 operational at present to 250,000 i.e. one CSC in each Gram Panchayat. CSCs would be made viable, multi-functional end-points for delivery of government and business services. DeitY (Department of Electronics & Information Technology) would be the nodal department to implement thescheme.

- A total of 150,000 Post Offices are proposed to be converted into multi service centres. Department of Posts would be the nodal department to implement thisscheme.

Information for All:

- Open Data platform and online hosting of information & documents would facilitateopen and easy access to information forcitizens.

- Government shall pro-actively engage through social media and web based platforms to inform citizens.MyGov.inhas already been launched as a medium to exchange ideas/ suggestions with Government. It will facilitate two-way communication between citizens andgovernment.

- Online messaging to citizens on special occasions/programs would be facilitatedthrough emails andSMSes.

- The above would largely utilise existing infrastructure and would need limitedadditional resources.

Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity:

- The initiative is to focus on network penetration and fill the gaps inconnectivity.

- All together 42,300 uncovered villages will be covered for providing universalmobile connectivity in the country under thisprogram.

- DoT will be the nodal department and project cost will be around ₹16,000 crores during FY2014-18.

IT for Jobs:

- One crore students from smaller towns and villages will be trained for IT sector jobsover 5 years. DeitY would be the nodal department for thisscheme.

- BPOs would be set up in every north-eastern state to facilitate ICT enabled growth in these states. DeitY would be the nodal department for thisscheme.

- Three lakh service delivery agents would be

trained as part of skill development to run viable businesses delivering IT services. Again DeitY would be the nodal department for thisscheme.

- Five lakh rural workforce would be trained by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to cater to their own needs. Department of Telecom (DoT) would be the nodal department for thisscheme.

E-Kranti - Electronic Delivery of Services:

There are 31 Mission Mode Projects under different stages of e-governance project lifecycle.

Further, ten new MMPs have been added to e-Kranti by the Apex Committee on National

e- Governance Plan (NeGP) headed by the Cabinet Secretary in its meeting held on 18th March, 2014.

Electronics Manufacturing:

Target NET ZERO Imports is a striking demonstration of intent. This ambitious goal requires coordinated action on many fronts:

- Taxation,Incentives
- Economies of scale, Eliminate cost disadvantages & Skilldevelopment
- Focus areas - Big Ticket Items FABS, Fab-less design, Set top boxes, VSATs, Mobiles, Consumer & Medical Electronics, Smart Energy meters, Smart cards,micro-ATMs
- Incubators,Clusters

- Governmentprocurement

There are many ongoing programs which will be fine-tuned. Existing structures are inadequate to handle this goal and need strengthening.

Early Harvest Programmes:

- Government greetings to be e-greetings.
- Educational books toe-books.
- People will use the e-services for entertainment, weather information, latest updatesetc.

overnance: Reforming Government ThroughTechnology:

- To reform government throughtechnology.
- ElectronicDatabases
- Public GrievanceRedressal

COMPOSITION AND MINISTRY OF DIGITAL INDIA:

- Herds in the cash economy into the digital economy (read taxrevenue).
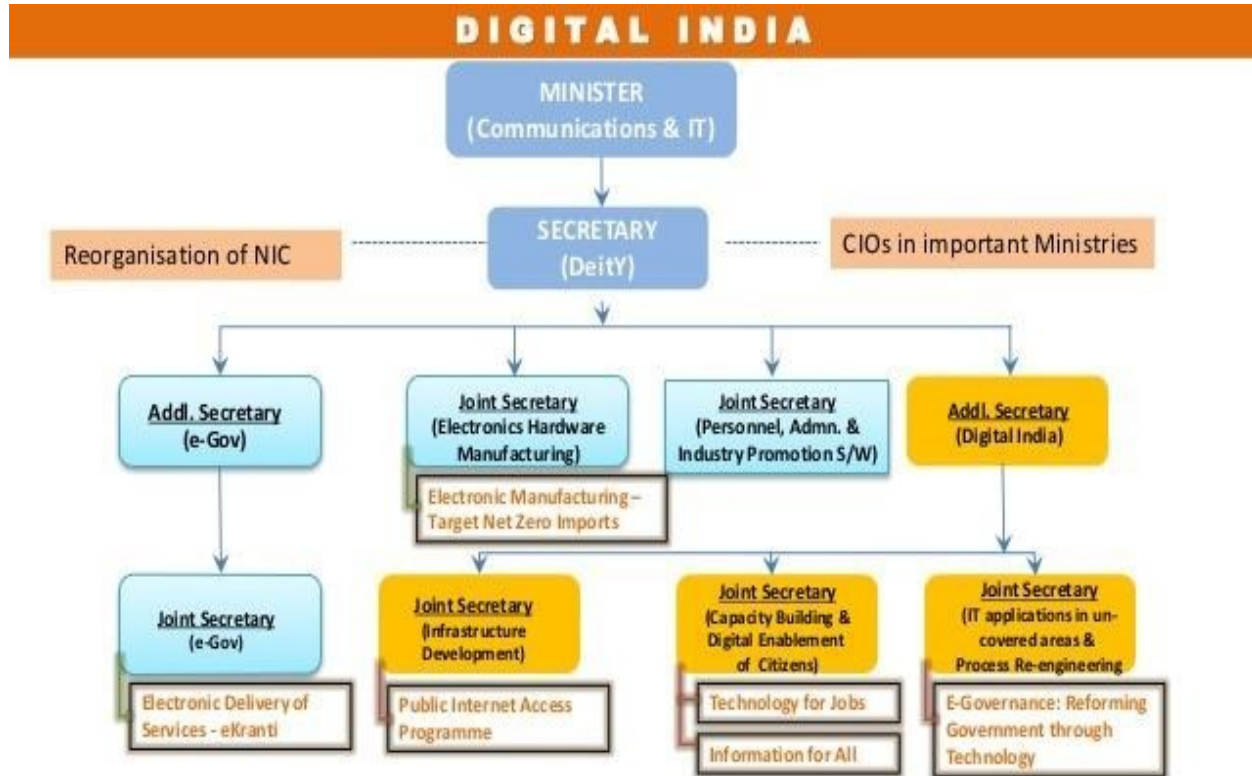
The overall costs of digital India initiative are approx. ₹1.13 lakh crore for ongoing schemes as well as new schemes and activities.

BENEFITS OF DIGITIZATION FOR INDIA:

- Reduces the cost of transactions in every walk oflife.

- Reduces the burden on the Government to print and managecurrency.

- Makes transactions transparent and makes tax deduction and exemptionseasier.

- Ensure government grants reach the recipients, straight into their bankaccounts.

- Stops anonymous transactions - (Benami - nameless).

- National financial data will be available in weeks rather than years.

- With advent of better tax collection the Government may abolish Incometax.

- An economic platform for the poor and the rich, with no cash stash for therich.

BARRIERS IN DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM (DIP):

- Each pillar has its ownbarriers.

- Infrastructure deficit such as lack of towers, especially in the countryside.

- Implementing entities at the actualfield.

- Beneficiaries may not have adequate knowledge of Digital Indiaprogram.

- Auxiliary services such as health, education, governance etc. may not be welldeveloped.

- No separate entity for consumer readdress under theprogram.

REMEDIES TO OVERCOME THE BARRIERS:

- A few new programs may be needed-particularly in electronics manufacturing andskill development.
- Have a dedicated training institute in each state under DIP, to aid in augmentingthe digital literacy and awarenesslevel.
- To inspire the youth for making effectiveDIP.
- Government should conduct the seminars to aware people about the digitalservices.
- To advertise the policies of DIP on books, magazines, TV, newspapers etc., so that people could aware about theeservices.
- To launch a help-line number of DIP to solve the problems relating toe-services.
- Provide some help centers in each state to solve publicissues.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude the digital India program is a

flagship program of the government of India to shape by connectivity and technological opportunity. It is a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It is a good effort to develop India. Although, digital India program 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 21st century powered by connectivity and the technological opportunity. In short, this paper focuses on the key barriers and providing remedies to prevent the challenging issues towards digitalization of the economy.

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