

Greetings!

Digital India is an initiative of Government of India to integrate the government departments or jurisdictions and the people of India. Digital India is an umbrella program which will restructure and re-focus several existing schemes to bring in a transformative impact. The vision of Digital India programme also aims at inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing and job opportunities etc. It is centered on three key areas -

- I. Digital Infrastructure as a utility to every citizen
- II. Governance & services on demand
- III. Digital Empowerment of citizens

Impact of Digital India

- According to a recent McKinsey report, Digital India would help the country to boost GDP up to \$1 trillion by 2025.
- The Digital platform could create employment opportunities. The Digital India project itself will create employment opportunities for Direct 1.7 Cr. and Indirect at least 8.5 Cr. which will help in fighting against unemployment problems in India.
- Country can get benefited in many sectors, such as agriculture, rural E- education, etc.
- Digital platform could establish e-Governance & e-Services across India.
- High speed internet shall be made available in all rural villages in India as a result imbalanced growth in the rural and urban areas can be removed.
- The poor literacy rate in India is due to unavailability of physical infrastructure in rural and remote areas. In this juncture, m-Education services, high speed internet can play an important role by reaching remote masses.
- Through the mobile and internet banking, the dream each person having a bank account could be achieved.
- Digital India encourage education and knowledge sharing procedure which impact on the quality of life

and lead to social modernization.

- In Digital platform the next generation technologies could help in lowering the carbon footprint by reducing fuel consumption, waste management, greener workplaces and thus leading to a greener ecosystem.
- The Digital platforms through Digital Inclusion could save time and reduce unnecessary costs in near future.

Challenges to implement Digital India Project:

High cost of implementation: Approximate cost of implementing this immense project is Rs. 100,000 Cr in ongoing schemes and Rs. 13,000 Cr for new schemes & activities.

Coordination problem: Accomplishment of this program requires participation of several departments and demanding efficient inter-governmental coordination. So quality Leadership and support of all the involved departments are very crucial.

Infrastructure: To achieve this project India will need massive Data Centres to hold the data of entire country and infrastructural development in rural India is very much required as the physical infrastructure at customer premises are unaffordable by most of the rural Indians. The government needs to realise the strong capability being built in the private sector and needs to leverage that.

Cyber security: We have seen several incidences of cybercrime on corporate and individual level during the past few years. Hence, the Digital India project demands very strong network security at all levels of operation.

This issue also presents a good number of articles on the cover story theme 'Digital Revolution in India' by distinguished experts and authors as well as an interview from industry stalwart. We look forward to constructive feedback from our readers on the articles and overall development of the journal. Please send your mails at editor@icmai.in.

We thank all the contributors to this important issue and hope our readers enjoy the articles.