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Digital India Power to Empower: An Initiative of Government of India

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Abstract:

After every two-three days new technology with its state of the arts application have been come into existence, which may be considered as a Digital Tsunami to all human being. Whatever, learned in last two days will be outdated after next two days or may not be a part of our existence day to day life. If, the transformation has been done in such a way like; speed of light as far as technology is concern, then it is right time to be a part of such revolution. The same has been considered as a big challenge before our government and to achieve or overcome through this challenge, Government of India has been taken some initiatives for their citizens' future which is called as a "Digital India".

Keywords: Digital India, Information Technology, Communication Technology, Knowledge Economy.

Introduction:

According to Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, official website; "The Digital India programme is flagship programme of the Government of India with vision to transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy".

The journey of e-Governance initiatives in India took a broader dimension in mid 90s for wider sectoral applications with emphasis on citizen-centric services. Later on, many States/UTs started various e-Governance projects. Though these e-Governance projects were citizen-centric, they could make lesser than the desired impact. Government of India launched National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) in 2006. 31 Mission Mode Projects covering various domains were initiated. Despite the successful implementation of many e-Governance projects across the country, e-Governance as a whole has not been able to make the desired impact and fulfil all its objectives.

It has been felt that a lot more thrust is required to ensure e-Governance in the country promote inclusive growth that covers electronic services, products, devices and job opportunities. Moreover, electronic manufacturing in the country needs to be strengthened.

In order to transform the entire ecosystem of public services through the use of information technology, the Government of India has launched the **Digital India programme** with the vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.[1]

The progamme has three key vison areas according to government official those are;
1. Digital infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen[2]
   - Availability of high speed internet as a core utility for delivery of services to citizens
   - Cradle to grave digital identity that is unique, lifelong, online and authenticable to every citizen
   - Mobile phone & bank account enabling citizen participation in digital & financial space
   - Easy access to a Common Service Centre
   - Shareable private space on a public cloud
   - Safe and secure cyber-space
2. Governance and Service on Demand[2]
   - Seamlessly integrated services across departments or jurisdictions
   - Availability of services in real time from online & mobile platforms
   - All citizen entitlements to be portable and available on the cloud
   - Digitally transformed services for improving ease of doing business
   - Making financial transactions electronic & cashless
   - Leveraging Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) for decision support systems & development
3. Digital Empowerment of Citizens[2]
   - Universal digital literacy
   - Universally accessible digital resources
   - Availability of digital resources / services in Indian languages
   - Collaborative digital platforms for participative governance
   - Citizens not required to physically submit Govt. documents / certificates

Programme Management Structure for Digital India Programme[3]

The Programme management structure for the Digital India programme as endorsed by the Union Cabinet is as follow:

For effective management of the Digital India programme, the programme management structure would consists of a Monitoring Committee on Digital India headed by the Prime Minister, a Digital India Advisory Group chaired by the Minister of Communications and IT and an Apex Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The structure has the needed secretarial/ monitoring/ technical support and appropriate decentralization of power and responsibility to ensure effective execution of the various projects/ components by the implementing departments/ teams.

Key components of the Programme Management structure would be as follows:

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for programme level policy decisions

A Monitoring Committee on Digital India under the Chairpersonship of Prime Minister which will be constituted with representation drawn from relevant Ministries/ Departments to provide leadership, prescribe deliverables and milestones, and monitor periodically the implementation of the Digital India Programme.

A Digital India Advisory Group headed by the Minister of Communications and IT to solicit views of external stakeholders and to provide inputs to the Monitoring Committee on Digital India, advise the Government on policy issues and strategic interventions necessary for accelerating the implementation of the Digital India Programme across Central and State Government Ministries/Departments. The composition of the Advisory Group would include representation from the Planning Commission and 8 to 9 representatives from States/UTs and other Line Ministries/Departments on a rotational basis.

An Apex Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary would be overseeing the programme and providing policy and strategic directions for its implementation and resolving inter-ministerial issues. In addition it would harmonize and integrate diverse initiatives and aspects related to integration of services, end to end process re-engineering and service levels of MMPs and other initiatives under the Digital India Programme, wherever required.

Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)/Committee on Non Plan Expenditure (CNE) to financially appraise/ approve projects as per existing delegation of financial powers. The EFC/ CNE headed by Secretary Expenditure would also be recommending to the CCEA the manner in which MMPs/ eGovernance initiatives are to be implemented, as well as the financial terms of participation for States. A representative of the Planning Commission would also be included in both the EFC and CNE.

A Council of Mission Leaders on Digital India headed by Secretary, DeitY would be established as a platform to share the best practices in various existing and new eGov initiatives under Digital India and also to sensitize various government departments about ICT projects of DeitY. While the inter-departmental, integration and interoperable issues of integrated projects / eGovernance initiatives would be resolved by the Apex Committee on Digital India headed by Cabinet Secretary, the technical issues of integrated projects would be resolved by the Council of Mission Leaders.

Further, considering the scope of the Digital India Programme and the need to look at issues such as overall technology architecture, framework, standards, security policy, funding strategy, service delivery mechanism, sharing of common infrastructure etc. at a programme level, it is proposed that the technical appraisal of all Digital India projects be done by DeitY, prior to a project being placed before the EFC/ CNE. This appraisal would cover issues relating to inclusion of adoption of Standards, utilization of Cloud and mobile platforms,
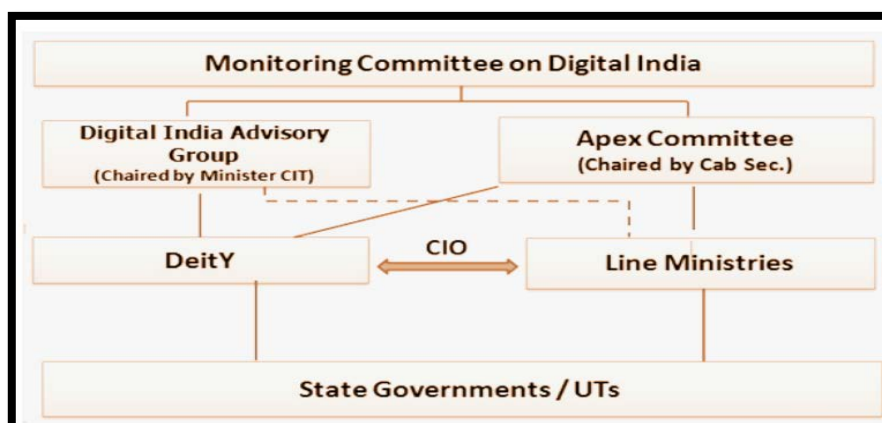
consideration of security aspects, etc. The Secretary, DeitY or his representative may also be included as a standing special invitee to all EFC/CNE meetings, which are appraising/approving MMPs. It may be mentioned that the DeitY has already set up a Programme Management Unit, namely National eGovernance Division (NeGD) to provide support to departments in conceptualizing, developing, appraising, implementing and monitoring respective MMPs / eGovernance Initiatives.

Institutional mechanism of Digital India at State level would be headed by State Committee on Digital India by the Chief Minister. State/UT Apex Committees on Digital India headed by Chief Secretaries would be constituted at State/UT level to allocate required resources, set priority amongst projects and resolve inter-departmental issues at State level.

For effective monitoring of Digital India, usage of Project Management Information System would be mandatory in each new and existing Mission Mode Projects to capture the real or near real time details about the progress of the project. This tool should be proficient enough to capture the parameters for each stage of project namely, conceptualization and development, implementation and post implementation. The parameters could be decided in consultation with various line Ministries / Departments and DeitY.

Since the "e-Kranti: National eGovernance Plan 2.0" is already integrated with Digital India Programme, the existing programme management structure established for National eGovernance Plan at both national and state level has also been decided to be integrated appropriately with the programme management structure being envisaged for Digital India Programme at national and State/UT level.
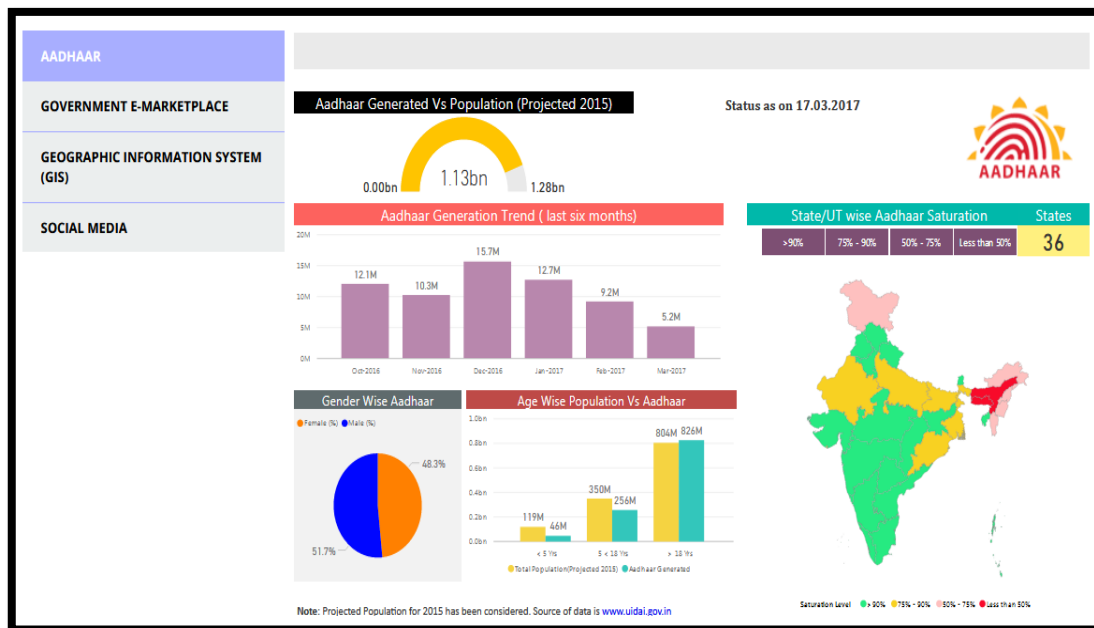
Institutional Mechanism at National Level[4]

Digital India Initiative[5]

AADHAR	CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE FOR INTERNET OF THINGS (COE-IT)
DIGILOCKER	DIGITIZE INDIA
e-GRANTHALAYA	e-HOSPITAL
ELETRONIC DEVELOPMENT FUND	eSAMPARK
eSIGN	GARV GRAMIN VIDYUTIKARAN
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM	JEEVAN PRAMAAN
mASSET	mKAVACH
MOBILE SEVA APP STORE	mRAKTKOSH
NATIONAL SUPER COMPUTING SYSTEM	STARTUP INDIA PORTAL AND MOBILE APP
AGRIMARKET APP	BPO SCHEME
CSC 2.0	DIGITAL AIIMS
E-PANCHAYAT	eDISTRICT
eNAM	KISAN SUVIDHA
PUSA KRISHI	SOIL HEALTH CARD
ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN MOBILE APP	BHIM (BHARAT INTERFACE FOR MONEY)
DigiDHAN ABHIYAAN	DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAAN (DISHA)
DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER	eBASTA
ePATHSHALA	EPFO WEB PORTAL & MOBILE APP
GOVERNMENT eMARKETPLACE	IRCTC CONNECT
MCA21	mCESSATION
MyGov	NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE PORTAL
NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL	NATIONAL VOTERS SERVICE PORTAL
NORTH EAST PROMOTION SCHEME	ONLINE LABS
PASSPORT SEVA PROJECT	PAYGOV INDIA
PRADHAN MANTRI JAN-DHAN YOJANA	PRADHAN MANTRI KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA
RAPID ASSESSMENT SYSTEM	SARANSH
SHAALA DARPAN	SUGAMAYA PUSTAKLYA
SWATCH BHARAT APP	UDAAN
UMANG	UN-RESERVED TICKET THROUGH MOBILE APPLICATION
VISVESVARYA PHD SCHEME FOR ELECTRONIC AND IT	

Digital India – Analysis[6]

Conclusion

The schemes launch by Government of India in recent past two years can be considered as an empowering tool to existing Information and Communication Technology enabled sector. The continuation of such schemes with its awareness amongst the layman will be the prime challenge before the administration of each and every government department. However, to become world leader in Information and Communication Technology government must address the issues face by citizens for empowering and enlightening their lives.

Digital India is not only the vision of government, it must be taken into account to each and every individual as a moto to lead ourselves as a path finder to other human being on globe. However, to spreading awareness of such government initiative may be resulted into a knowledge economy.

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