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Abstract:

The industrial revolution in the early nineteenth century played a crucial role in shaping the future we live in today. In the twentieth century, we are already accustomed to the many technological innovations that provided services to the people. India being a victim and colonial rule, we missed out on participating in the industrial revolutions in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Nonetheless, India has been playing a leading role in making bold moves to advance the movement and making life convenient for its citizens. Because of the COVID 19 we all are experiencing the need for digitalization and digital resources. The aim to infuse "Digital India" technology with day-to-day services and this has great impact on people and concept and digital India. Digital India is a company launched by the Government of India in order to ensure the government service are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructures and by increasing Internet connectivity or making the country digital in technology. Rajiv Gandhi promoted science and technology and associated industries by bringing computer and internet to India. Under his guidance the development of telematics (C- DOT) was established in August 1984 to develop to state-of-art telecommunication technology. Digital India is a flashing programme of the Government of India Digital India or nor profit making company is setup by ministry of electronics & information technology under the section 8 of company Act 2013.

"The Digital India brand remains compelling, linked as it is to the aspirations of hundreds of millions of young Indians, and to the technologists and entrepreneurs who truly believe in the transformative impact of digitalisation".

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What is Digital India?

Digital India was an initiative taken by the Government of India for providing high-speed internet networks to rural areas. Digital India Mission was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1st July 2015 as a beneficiary to other government schemes including Make in India, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Startup India, BharatNet, and Standup India.

Digital India Mission is mainly focused on three areas:

Providing digital infrastructure as a source of utility to every citizen.

Governance and services on demand.

To look after the digital empowerment of every citizen.

Digital India was established with a vision of inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing, and job opportunities.

Digital India aims to provide the much-needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas. Each of these areas is a complex programme in itself and cuts across multiple Ministries and Departments. The nine pillars of Digital India

are given below:

Broadband Highways– This covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All – Rural, Broadband for All Urban and National Information Infrastructure (NII).

Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity- This initiative focuses on network penetration and filling the gaps in connectivity in the country.

Public Internet Access Programme- The two sub components of Public Internet Access Programme are Common Services Centres (CSCs) and Post Offices as multi-service centres.

e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology- Government Process Re-engineering using IT to simplify and make the government processes more efficient is critical for transformation to make the delivery of government services more effective across various government domains and therefore needs to be implemented by all Ministries/ Departments.

e-Kranti – Electronic Delivery of Services- To improve the delivery of public services and simplify the process of accessing them. In this regard, several e-governance initiatives have been undertaken by various State Governments and Central Ministries to usher in an era of e-Government. e-Governance in India has steadily evolved from the computerization of Government Departments to initiatives that encapsulate the finer points of Governance, such as citizen centricity, service orientation and transparency.

Challenges in making Digital India

The government of India has taken an initiative through the Digital India Mission to connect the rural areas of the country with high-speed internet networks. Apart from the various initiatives taken by Digital India, there are several challenges faced by it.

1. Some of the challenges and drawbacks of Digital Mission are mentioned below:
2. The daily internet speed, as well as the Wi-Fi hotspots, are slow as compared to other developed nations.
3. Most of the small and medium scale industry has to struggle a lot for adapting to the new modern technology.
4. Limited capability of entry-level smartphones for smooth internet access.
5. Lack of skilled manpower in the field of digital technology.
6. To look for about one million cybersecurity experts to check and monitor the growing menace of digital crime.
7. Lack of user education.

Rajiv Gandhi as an architect of digital india

His vision to bring the era of technology by introducing computer in India. His remarkable contribution towards the development of the nation. India may have started his journey of becoming digital empowered nation in 2014 but in actuality, Rajiv Gandhi started in late nineteenth century. "India is an old country but a young nation I'm young and I too have a dream, I dream of India strong, independent, self-reliant and in the front rank of the nations of the world. Rajiv Gandhi was able to lay the foundation of modern India through certain concrete steps.

Telecom revolution

Rajiv Gandhi as a 'father of information technology and telecom revolution of India'. He was also the reason behind the PCO (public call office) revolution. PCO booths helped to connect even the rural areas to the world outside. Because of his efforts, MTNL (mahanagar telephone Nigam limited) was established which helped in the spread of telephone network in 1984.

Computerization

Rajiv Gandhi promoted science and technology and associated industries by bringing computer and internet to India, further increasing the intelligence quotient of the country. He prompted the reduction of import quotas, taxes and

tariffs on computer and telecommunication. Indian Railways was modernized after the introduction of computerized railway tickets.

Modernized education

During his time from 1984 to 1989, India's digital hero made some efforts to take the country in the twentieth century. He announced the national policy of education (NPE) in 1986 to modernized and expand the higher education across the country. He started residential school for better development in education.

Voting Age

Rajiv Gandhi sought the empower of the youth. In order to provide voting rights to the people, the 61st Amendment act of the constitution was passed in 1989, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 years. This move allotted freedom to youth by digital voting.

Panchayati Raj

Rajiv Gandhi credited with laying the foundation of panchayati Raj in order to take democracy to the grassroots level. Panchayati Raj was created by 73rd and 74th amendment to the constitution in 1992, this background was prepared during the Congress government led by him.

Contribution of ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Despite of many natural calamities like earthquake 2001, two cyclone 1999 and 2000, drought 2002-03, oil crises 2003, kargil war 1999, in his tenure. His government introduced a revenue sharing model under new telecom policy which helped telecom firms to get fixed license fees. Bharat sanchar nigam Ltd was separately created to head over the service and policies. Further enhance the telecom sector, he created telecom settlement tribunal. International telephone service started and Videsh Sanchar Nigam was ended.

MANMOHAN SINGH

"In fact, we need such initiatives to be taken across the length and breadth of the country. This will help us in realising the full potential of ICT in decentralised governance, in better delivery of service, particularly education, in financial inclusion and e-commerce," Manmohan Singh said. Recalling the services of literacy and library movement in Kerala, he said the e-literacy program being launched with the addition of earlier movements that contribute in making India digital. He also said that by reducing digital divide was vital to improve the lives of the common people across the country. Launching total e-literacy all over Kerala, under the implementation under PN Panicker.

NARENDRA MODI

On 1 July, 2015, Narendra Modi officially launched Digital India. The government's flagship programme to transform India into an empowered digital economy was ambitious, over a time. Only 19% of the population was connected to the internet, and a mere 15% had access to mobiles. But the programme captured a palpable shift in public imagination of India's in the world. About direction of the country was headed in was running high following a couple of years of "deepening economic doubts". Six years on, India's digital journey has had its fair share of questioning the constitutionality of Aadhaar the biometric ID that would gate-keep access to government programmes to an apparent data security flaw in Aarogya Setu, the contact tracing app intended to be the digital backbone of the government's COVID response.

The Origin of Digital India

Digital India was, consolidating disparate efforts around connectivity, skilling and digital governance. Precursors like the National e-Governance Plan (2006), the National Optical Fibre Network (2011) and UID (2009) were revamped and relabelled. An initial sum of Rs 2510 crore was allocated to the Digital India Programme and allied efforts as part of the 2015-16 budget.

“Our dream is of a “Digital India”...for the poor and not just the elites. We aspire to provide each child, even in the most remote villages of the country, a sound education. We aim for every citizen to be able to use their phones to operate a bank account, to engage with the government, meet their day to day needs, and conduct business on the go. And for this, we must embark on the journey toward Digital India.”

Trials and Tribulations of Digitising India

Yet, initiatives under Digital India have been frequently beset with implementation issues, sometimes due to the lack of backing legislation and policy, often due to poor planning and foresight.

With the Personal Data Protection Bill mired in controversy, and no coherent national encryption policy, nor any robust cybersecurity measures, the Aadhaar database has been hit by multiple breaches. Unsecured public buckets and endpoints one related to Indane, and another to BHIM further damage citizens’ trust and call into question the security and integrity of Digital India projects.

Bharat Net, formerly the National Optical Fiber Network, was set up in 2011 with the aim of connecting 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs). The project missed the optimistic if impractical deadline of 2013, was rebranded in 2014, with a new three-phase implementation timeline.

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Bharat Net continues, with phase 1 infrastructure already falling apart. A 2020 report by the Standing Committee on IT became the absence of measures to actually deliver internet services to end users. This is chalked up partly to the “glaring omission” of a last mile connectivity strategy, up until 2017. The report also notes bureaucratic delays in granting tenders, and in right of way permissions between the implementing bodies on the one hand and public sector bodies like the National Highways Authority of India that control connecting infrastructure like roads and cable ducts on the other.

Onto Greater Things

The lesson from Digital India’s rocky journey is that it may very well be premature to peg an “e-” onto everything and mark a problem as “solved”. The program and its initiatives also demonstrate how the veneer of technology can also mask exclusion, and power. Aadhaar, meant to improve access to government services, often does the opposite: the ID is in effect compulsory for subsidies and welfare schemes, bank accounts and more, forcing citizens including those the poor, the marginalised and the persecuted choose between privacy and access.

Nevertheless, the Digital India brand remains compelling, linked as it is to the aspirations of hundreds of millions of young Indians, and to the technologists and entrepreneurs who truly believe in the transformative impact of digitalisation.

The country’s USD 200 billion digital economy is also a big part of its outreach to the world, and the permutations and combinations of new regional and international partnerships it is now a part of. As India tries to emerge once again out of the grips of a deadly pandemic, its digital growth story, with all its ups and downs, we will try to continue to be part of it.

Digital leap

By many measures, India is well on its way to becoming a digitally advanced country. Propelled by the falling cost and rising availability of smartphones and high-speed connectivity, India is already home to one of the world’s largest and fastest-growing bases of digital consumers and is digitizing faster than many mature and emerging economies.

India had 560 million internet subscribers in September 2018, second only to China. Digital services are growing in

parallel . Indians download more apps 12.3 billion in 2018, than any country except China and spend more time on social media an average of 17 hours a week, than social media users in China and the United States. The share of Indian adults with at least one digital financial account has more than doubled since 2011, to 80 percent.

To put this digital growth in context, we analyzed 17 mature and emerging economies across 30 dimensions of digital adoption since 2014 and found that India is digitizing faster than all but one other country in the study, Indonesia. Our Country Digital Adoption Index covers three elements: digital foundation cost, speed, and reliability of internet service, digital reach (number of mobile devices, app downloads, and data consumption), and digital value, how much consumers engage online by chatting, tweeting, shopping, or streaming. India's score rose by 90 percent since 2014.

Public- and private-sector actions have driven digital growth so far

The public sector has been a strong catalyst for India's rapid digitization. The government's efforts to ramp up Aadhaar, the national biometric digital identity program, has played a major role. Aadhaar has enrolled 1.2 billion people since it was introduced in 2009, making it the single largest digital ID program in the world, hastening the spread of other digital services. For example, almost 870 million bank accounts were linked to Aadhaar by February 2018, compared with 399 million in April 2017 and 56 million in January 2014. Likewise, the Goods and Services Tax Network, established in 2013, brings all transactions of about 10.3 million indirect tax-paying businesses onto one digital platform, creating a powerful incentive for businesses to digitize their operations.

Private sector innovation has helped bring internet-enabled services to millions of consumers and made online usage more accessible. For example, Reliance Jio's strategy of bundling virtually free smartphones with mobile-service subscriptions has spurred innovation and competitive pricing. Data costs have plummeted by more than 95 percent since 2013 and fixed-line download speeds quadrupled between 2014 and 2017.

Conclusion

Digital age is same thing as "modernism" and modernism can simply be defined as an overall socially progressive trend of thought that affirms the power of human beings creates, improve and reshape their environment with the aid of practical, experimental and scientific knowledge or technology. In modernism, there are some certain impacts on social, economic and political life of the societies today, because it has touched all these areas. When we talked of the impact of digital age or modernism on the society, we will be focusing on the changes we have on the social aspects of the world in general, that is, how the society is socially on progress. In the economic life of the societies, we will be focusing on the technologies that changed how people lived, where they lived and how they thought, why there is a rapid change in the production of goods, and also the means of moving those goods from place to another in today's society. In political life, we have the changes in politics, the rise of working class, and the reason why many are poor and lived in bad conditions while the fewer enjoyed the profits.

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