THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS OF DIGITAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT :
     The goal of the Digital India initiative is to increase individual agency across the nation. The goal of the Indian government's "Digital India" initiative is to make the nation a technology powerhouse by improving the country's digital infrastructure and encouraging the development of new skills. The advent of the digital age is due to a confluence of scientific discoveries and technological advances. The primary goal of the idea is to provide an open, accountable, and reactive framework. The purpose of this study is to examine the possibilities and threats facing the development of Digital India. Digitalization is a revolutionary step forward for a country like India. It is important to emphasise the many difficulties, many of which will remain obstacles in the not-too-distant future.

KEYWORDS : *Digital India, Digital Literacy, Digitalization, Government Initiative, Economic Development, Information and Communication Technology.*

1. INTRODUCTION
          Further industrialization and development in the fastest growing economy will be facilitated by the widespread use of digital processes and services. India has made great strides in this field and now has a very high degree of digital permittivity, which deserves special attention. The Indian government is working to make all government services accessible to citizens digitally through improving Internet access and strengthening the country's online infrastructure. Digital illiteracy, outdated or inadequate infrastructure, sluggish internet connections, a lack of cooperation among different agencies, taxation concerns, and so on all stand in the way of its full and effective implementation. In order for this initiative to realise its full potential, these problems must be resolved.
          There will be an emphasis on learning how to use digital technology so that all services may be delivered digitally. The program's goal is to take use of modern advances in information and communication technology to expand access to government services on the internet. It is undeniable that digitization has been a critical component of India's rapid economic development to date, which has been propelled by a robust market economy that has significantly improved people's standard of living. There has been a sluggish transition to digital practises and widespread use of digital resources.
          Through reforms in areas like high-speed internet, digital identification for residents, universal mobile banking, access to Common Service Centres (CSC), cyber-security and shared private spaces on a readily available public Cloud, India hopes to become a digitally empowered society. Inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 1, 2015, 'Digital India' aims to provide high-speed internet access to underserved areas and increase digital literacy. Digital India is a consolidated series of initiatives with the overarching goal of facilitating the government's efforts to transform India into a

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knowledge-based economy and to improve the quality of life for its population. They are Universal Access to Mobile, E-Governance, Electronics Manufacturing, Public Access to Internet, Broadband Highways, Early Harvest Programmes, Global Information, E-Kranti and Information Technology for Jobs. The goal of this plan is to provide people access to various digital services in the areas of agriculture, health, economic participation, justice, learning and safety. The government's plan was to leverage cloud computing and social media for administration. Most of Digital India's nine objectives have significant implementation barriers, hence the mission's ultimate ambition is still rather far off. Each goal must be consistently prioritised in order to prevent this initiative from becoming a dismal failure.

Online learning is another sector that has grown rapidly. The number of students who use online resources to supplement their education has surged sixfold between 2015 and 2018. In 2019, there were 227 million consumers in rural areas, compared to 2015 million in metropolitan areas. IAMAI forecasts that by 2021, India's online education market would be worth $1.96 billion, up from $247 million in 2016. Such strong growth in the business sector bodes well for widespread digital transformation and the spread of computer knowledge.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
The research has many goals, which are as follows.
a) To learn more about Digital India as a concept.
b) To learn more about the many benefits of Digital India.
c) To learn more about the challenges facing Digital India.

3. PROGRAMME OF DIGITAL INDIA AND ITS BENEFITS
Major Here are some of Digital India's main benefits:
a) The Digital India Mission would foster inclusive development by ensuring that all citizens have equal access to public services including those offered by the government, the healthcare system, and the educational system.
b) Citizens would be able to digitally store important documents like their Health Records, Adhar Card, Pan Card, Driving Licence, Identity Card, Mark Sheets, Passport, etc., using the digital locker function. It will help cut down on the time spent documenting and filing.
c) In the long run, this will result in a cashless society.
d) The World Bank found that a 10% increase in mobile and broadband penetration increases per capita GDP by 0.81% and 1.31% in poor economies.
e) A large number of jobs in the fields of telecommunications, electronics, and information technology would be created by the project.
f) Since processing time is cut down, work may be completed quickly.
g) Data made public online will lead to more openness.
h) E-Government will help lessen the prevalence of corrupt practises.
i) Accessibility of 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
j) According to a World Bank analysis, a 10% rise in mobile and broadband penetration raises per capita GDP in developing nations by 0.81% and 1.31%, respectively.

4. KEY PROBLEMS FACING THE DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVE
The following are the most significant challenges facing the Digital India programme:
a) Digital illiteracy is a major barrier to the realisation of the digital India vision. Reliance Jio has made considerable strides in bringing internet access to rural and urban areas of India.
b) Linking up every village, town, and megalopolis is an enormous task.
c) There is still widespread difficulty gaining access to the internet in India. When it comes to processing the ever-increasing number of digital transactions,
d) India's digital infrastructure is severely inadequate. The slow and delayed development of infrastructure is the greatest challenge to the Digital India plan.

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e) Cybersecurity remains one of the world's most pressing problems.
f) There is a serious barrier to digital literacy caused by the dearth of locally-languaged digital services.
g) Digital technology adoption has been hindered by worries about security and privacy. Inadequate knowledge prevents uncovering malware.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES
The following considerations should be made in order to eliminate the obstacles:
a) Invest in network infrastructure and work to improve internet speeds.
b) Something must be done about the digital divide.
c) People should be taught, as part of their digital literacy, how to keep their personal information safe in the digital realm.
d) Effortful participation from many different divisions is required, as is a great deal of commitment and hard work. A wide range of regulations in various fields should help achieve this goal.
e) Knowledge will spread widely, especially to the country.
f) Educators might benefit from taking cyber security classes to hone their knowledge and abilities in this area.

6. CONCLUSION
Digitalization is a revolutionary step forward for a country like India. It is worth noting that this strategy faces several difficulties and that those difficulties are likely to persist into the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, thanks to a combination of state and private initiatives, India has made significant digital advancements in recent years. It is encouraging to see that the people of India feel a sense of urgency to embrace digital technologies for greater productivity and development. Our country's large population gives us an advantage in this field that should not be disregarded. It is possible that studying how this project will fare in the future, together with the challenges provided by "digital" may form the basis of future studies.

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