1. Introduction

A Digital India is an initiative of Government of India to integrate the government departments helping the people of India. It aims at ensuring the government services are made available to citizens electronically by reducing paperwork. The initiative also includes plan to connect rural areas and urban areas with high-broadband and mobile networks. Digital India has main components are the creation of digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally and digital literacy. Digital India project is slated for completion by 2019 these are a two-way platform will be created where both the service providers and the consumers stand to benefit. The scheme will be monitored and controlled by the Digital India Advisory group which will be chaired by the Ministry of Communications and IT. It offers their own services to the public Healthcare, Education, Judicial services etc. The initiative is commendable and deserves full support of all stakeholders. However, the initiative also lacks many crucial components including lack of legal framework, absence of privacy and data protection laws, civil liberties abuse possibilities, lack of parliamentary oversight for e-surveillance in India, lack of intelligence related reforms in India, insecure Indian cyberspace, etc. These issues have to be managed first before introducing DI initiative in India. Digital India project is worth exploring and implementation despite its shortcomings that can be rectified before its implementation.

2. Challenges of Digital India

The Government of India entity to connect High Speed internet 250,000 villages. The Digital India initiative is a promising initiative of the Indian Government project. It is also believed that E-commerce would facilitate the DI project. However, it is not free from challenges and legal hurdles. Some believe that DI cannot be successful till mandatory e-governance services in India are introduced. Having incomplete implementation of the National e-Governance Plan of India will only affect the success of the DI project. India has poor regulations in the field of privacy protection, data protection, cyber law, e-governance etc. Further, many legal experts believe that e-governance and DI without cyber security is useless. The cyber security trends in India exposed the vulnerability of Indian cyberspace. Critical infrastructure protection would be a really tough task to manage for the Indian Government. The project also lacks the concept of proper E-waste management.

3. Issues of Civil Liberties

Initiatives like Digital India would be required to comply with the Civil liberties requirements in general and civil liberties protection in cyberspace in particular. India has not given any importance to privacy and law, government indulges into Mass surveillance in India and projects like Aadhaar, Central Monitoring System, Netra, NATGRID, etc. are operating without any law and parliamentary oversight.

4. Digital India Week

At the launch ceremony of Digital India Week by top CEOs from India and abroad committed to invest Rs 4.5 lakh crore towards this initiative. The CEOs said the investments would be utilities towards making smart phones and internet devices at an affordable price in India which would help generate jobs in India as well as reduce the cost of importing them from abroad. Key points of Digital India Programme are :-

- Broadband Highways
- Universal Access to Phones
- Public Internet Access Programme
5. Early Harvest Programmes

Early Harvest Programme basically consists of those projects which are to be implemented within short timeline. The projects under the Early Harvest Programme are as follows:

5.1 IT Platform for Messages: A mass messaging application has been developed by DeitY that will cover elected representatives and all Government employees. Over 1.36 crore mobiles and 22 lakh emails are part of the database. The portal was released on 15th August 2014. Data collection and data sanitization are ongoing processes. Government Greetings to be e-Greetings

5.2 Government Greetings to be e-Greetings: A basket of e-Greeting templates have been made available. Crowd sourcing of e-Greetings through the MyGov platform has been ensured. Crowd sourcing has also been used to create designs for Independence Day, Teachers’ Day and Gandhi Jayanti greetings. E-Greetings portal has been made live on 14th August 2014.

5.3 Biometric attendance: It will cover all Central Government offices in Delhi to begin with. Over 40,000 Government employees from 150 organizations have already registered on the common Bio-metric attendance portal at http://attendance.gov.in. Over 1000 bio-metric attendance terminals are under installation at entry gates of various Central Government buildings which will be connected with Wi-Fi Access points and mobile connectivity. Government employees will be able to mark their attendance from any of the central Government offices in Delhi.

5.4 Wi-Fi in All Universities: All universities on the National Knowledge Network (NKN) shall be covered under this scheme. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) is the nodal ministry for implementing this scheme. Secure Email within Government.

5.5 Digital Locker: Digital India initiative has developed DigiLocker to provide each citizen a personal storage dedicated to the individual so that e-documents as well Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) link of e-documents issued by various issuer departments. The e-documents can also be signed by using e-sign facility of the DigiLocker. The DigiLocker will also be linked with the Aadhar number of the same.

5.6 National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN): NOFN project will provide a way to implement various services, e-health, e-education and e-governance etc. by establishing broadband connectivity on optical fibre to 2,50,000 village panchayats across India.

6. Conclusion:

The Digital India program is beginning of a digital revolution, once implemented properly it will open various new opportunities for the citizens. It is one of the highly ambitious programs of Indian government India. The program is a multi-ministry program, with the involvement of central cabinet ministers, state governments etc. Various grand companies like Microsoft, Google and Fujitsu will also agreed be partner and help the success of Digital India initiative. While there are many obstacles in the path of Digital India program, one major of which is electricity. But this problem will soon be solved as there will be pressure on local leaders to get electricity in their village when Digital India program will be running in the nearby villages.

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