



Six Years of Digital India Programme

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Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister of India addressed a virtual event to mark the completion of six years of Digital Indian programme.

Key Points

- **Important Points of Address:**

- **India's Techade:** The data and demographic dividend combined with India's proven tech prowess presents massive opportunity for the country, and this decade will be '**India's techade**'.
- **Highlighted Various Schemes of Digital India programme:**
 - **Diksha:** It stands for Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing. It serves as **National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers**. All teachers across the nation will be equipped with advanced digital technology.
 - **eNAM:** It was launched on 14th April 2016 as a **pan-India electronic trade portal linking Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs)** across the States.
 - **eSanjeevani:** It is a **telemedicine service** platform of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
 - **DigiBunai:** DigiBunai **aids the weavers** to create digital artwork and translate the saree design to be loaded to the looms. DigiBunai™ is a first of its kind Open Source software for Jacquard and dobby weaving.
 - **PM SVANidhi scheme:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)**, for providing affordable loans to street vendors. It **incentivises digital transactions by the street vendors**.
- **Digital solutions during Covid-19:** Contact tracing app, Aarogya Setu.

- **Digital India Programme:** It was **launched in 2015**. The programme has been **enabled for several important Government schemes**, such as BharatNet, Make in India, Startup India and Standup India, industrial corridors, etc.
 - **Vision Areas:**
 - Digital infrastructure as Utility to Every Citizen.
 - Governance and services on demand.
 - Digital empowerment of citizens.
 - **Objectives:**
 - To prepare India for a knowledge future.
 - For being transformative that is to realize IT (Indian Talent) + IT (Information Technology) = IT (India Tomorrow).
 - Making technology central to enabling change.

On being an Umbrella Programme – covering many departments.



- **Significant Achievements:**

- **Digital Payments:** The introduction of **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, which introduced the benefits of digital payments in every part of the country.
 - From flourishing businesses to modest street vendors, UPI is helping everyone with payments and transactions.
 - This also encourages a number of private players to provide alternatives for digital payments which completely transformed the Indian economy.
- **Easing the Operations of Businesses:** The **Electronic Customer Identification System (e-KYC)**, the Electronic Document Storage System (**DigiLocker**) and the Electronic Signature System (eSign) were introduced to help businesses streamline their operations.
- **Beyond the JAM Trinity:** What started as a simple step to kick off the JAM trinity (**Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile**) to weed out leakages in the system, today **empowered the entire vaccination drive for Covid**, making India only the second nation to USA that administered 20 crore vaccines.

Way Forward

- There are **many roadblocks** in the way of its successful implementation like digital illiteracy, poor infrastructure, low internet speed, lack of coordination among various departments, issues pertaining to taxation etc. These challenges need to be **addressed** in order to realize the full potential of this programme.
- As we celebrate the six years of completion of Digital India, here are the **six concrete steps** that can aid the digital transformation of the nation in the new normal for Digital 4.0 contributing to India's success story and fulfilling the five trillion-dollar economy dream.
 - **Inculcation of scientific temper**, where perception doesn't drive policy.
 - **Access to data and lower costs of devices** especially smartphones.
 - **High speed technology** and seamless connectivity (5G, 6G).
 - **Quality and local language content.**
 - A secure and **safe cyberspace** with clear spaces for redressal, ombudsmen, grievance redressal officers.
 - **Renewable energy, seamless power supply, green technology** and lastly **more and more government services to be brought online** with more departments talking to each other.
- Tech solutions empowered by Digital India that has built the infrastructure for years together today serve as **a basis for other emerging interventions** in the fields of start-ups, digital education, seamless banking and payment solutions, agritech, health tech, smart cities, e-governance and retail management.

Source: IE