



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** What are the challenges involved in the implementation of the Digital India programme? How can we overcome the same? (150 words).

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### Approach

- Discuss the challenges facing digital india programme
- Discuss the steps that can be taken to overcome the same

### Introduction

- The Digital India programme is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

### Body

#### Challenges:

- **Digital illiteracy:**
  - Where there is still 25 % illiteracy the target of high level of digital illiteracy is one of the biggest challenge. According to ASSOCHAM-Deloitte report on Digital India, November, 2016, around 950 million Indians are still not on internet.
  - India has 1600 languages and dialects. Non availability of digital services in local Languages is a great barrier in digital literacy.
- **Financial:** Though there are resources with India but there is a huge capital cost which is to be invested and the fruits of the investment will be received after few years.
- **Politico-administrative:**
  - Integration of various government departments, need to be done which has technical as well as corporate issue.
  - Also the middle man policy will be eliminated completely, hence there will be imminent resistance from the working staff.
- **Security:** There is cyber threat all over the globe and digital India will not be any exception. Hence we need a strong anti cyber crime team of about 1 million trained cyber security professionals by 2025.
- **Infrastructural:** India's digital infrastructure is comprehensively inadequate to tackle growing increase in digital transactions. The challenge faced by the programme is slow and delayed infrastructure development.
- **Electronics Manufacturing:** India stands to import three quarters of the \$400bn worth of electronics products it will consume in the next five years. Hardware exports as of now are still under \$10bn. This calls for a very big ramp-up in local manufacturing.
- **Connectivity to remote areas:** It is a mammoth task to have connectivity with each and every village, town and city. The problem of connectivity is a complex issue because every state has different laws pertaining to its execution.

### Solution

The following steps may be considered to fulfill the vision of Digital India

- Digital literacy should provide knowledge to secure their online data.
- Massive awareness is to be created particularly in rural areas.
- Digital divide needs to be addressed. National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project can help bridging this gap.
- This mission needs content and service partnerships with telecom companies and other firms to develop infrastructure.
- The success of digital India project depends upon maximum connectivity with minimum cyber security risks. For this there should be a strong anti cyber crime team.
- To improve skill in cyber security, cyber security courses should be introduced with academics.
- There is need for effective participation of various departments and demanding commitment and efforts. Various policies in different areas should support this goal.
- In rural and remote areas, private sector players should be incentivised to provide last mile connectivity.

## Conclusion

India in the 21st Century must strive to meet the aspirations of its citizens where government and its services reach the doorsteps of citizens and contribute towards a long-lasting positive impact.

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