

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2310
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.08.2026

ACHIEVEMENTS OF DIGITAL INDIA MISSION

2310. # SHRI GOVINDBHAI LALJIBHAI DHOLAKIA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the achievements of the Digital India Mission so far;
- (b) the rate at which internet users and digital payments are increasing in the country annually; and
- (c) the details regarding the success of the Digital India Mission in the rural areas of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (c): In line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision to democratise technology and empower citizens, the Government of India had launched the Digital India programme in July, 2015. At its core, the programme promotes three interconnected goals: strengthening digital infrastructure, delivering government services digitally, and empowering citizens through digital literacy and employment.

The Government has successfully implemented foundational digital public infrastructure (DPI) at population scale for identity (Aadhaar), for payment (UPI), for data exchange (DigiLocker and API Setu), etc. DPI has been a transformative force in India's socio-economic development, significantly enhancing financial inclusion, digital inclusion, governance and economic growth.

Digital India initiatives are accessible through mobile platforms, which has played a significant role in bridging the urban–rural divide. Expanding DPI in rural areas has been a key priority for the Government of India to improve financial inclusion, digital inclusion and ensure access to essential government services for all the strata of society ensuring last-mile service delivery to rural and vulnerable populations. Details of some of the key initiatives that have been instrumental in ensuring inclusive and equitable access to government services, particularly for the rural areas are as follows:

Digital Connectivity: Digital India has contributed to the rapid expansion of internet access, through initiatives such as BharatNet, which aims to provide high-speed internet to rural and remote areas. As a result, there has been a substantial increase in internet accessibility and usage across the country, and internet penetration in India has grown in the last decade.

- **Telecom, Internet & Broadband Penetration:** Total telephone connections in India grew from 93.3 crores in March 2014 to 133+ crores in March, 2026.
- Internet subscribers jumped from 25.15 crore in March 2014 to 109.27 crore in March, 2026.
- The year-wise growth in the total internet subscriber base since FY 2021–22 is as follows:

Financial Year	Total Internet Subscribers	Growth in Percentage
2021–2022	≈ 825 million	-
2022–2023	≈ 881 million	6.83%
2023–2024	≈ 954 million	8.30%.
2024–2025	≈ 969 million	1.54%.
2025–2026	≈ 1092 million	12.75%

*Source: TRAI

Services delivery through Digital Public Infrastructure & Digital Platforms: Affordable data, assisted digital access points, and interoperable public platforms are enabling citizens to access welfare schemes, make digital payments, pursue online education, and participate in governance. Data costs have plummeted from Rs. 269 per GB in 2014 to roughly Rs. 8-10 per GB in 2025-26, making India one of the world's cheapest data markets.

- **Aadhaar** created a trusted biometric identity platform for secure and instant digital authentication. Over 1.44+ billion Aadhaar numbers have been generated.
- **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)** - Through Aadhaar-linked DBT, cash benefits from various welfare schemes (318 Schemes of 56 Ministries) are directly transferred into beneficiaries' bank accounts. Over Rs. 52 lakh crore has been transferred through DBT nationwide.
- **DigiLocker** provides citizens with anytime access to authentic digital documents issued by original issuers. The platform has over 71.66 crore registered users, with more than 936.03 crore documents issued by 2,822 onboarded issuers.
- **Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG)** provides citizens with a single mobile platform to access government services. The platform offers 2,575 services for individuals.
- **e-Sanjeevani** facilitates quick and easy access to doctors and medical specialists directly from your smartphone. The platform has served over 48 crore patients across the country.
- **API Setu** has enabled secure interoperability among government applications with more than 8,682 APIs, involving over 2,814 publishers and 8,586 consumers, facilitating efficient digital service delivery.
- **eSign** Facilitated legally valid digital signatures and approvals, enabling seamless execution of government processes, administrative functions, and business transactions in a paperless and contactless environment. Total 150.57 Cr. e-Sign issued by all e-Sign Service Providers (ESPs).
- **MeriPehchaan (National Single Sign-On)** Simplified access to multiple government services through a single set of credentials, enhancing user convenience and ensuring seamless access to digital services. Currently, 17,018 services of various

Ministries/States have been integrated with NSSO and over 227.87 Crore transactions have taken place on the MeriPehchaan platform.

- **Common Services Centres** – CSCs are offering government and business services in digital mode enhancing last-mile connectivity in rural areas through Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). Over 800 services are being delivered through CSCs. As of May 2026, 5.01 lakh CSCs are functional across the country (in rural and urban areas), out of which 3.91 lakh CSCs are functional at the Gram Panchayat level (rural).
- To promote linguistic inclusion in digital services, the Government has launched the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) – **BHASHINI**, envisaged as a public digital platform for Indian language technologies. The Bhashini platform addresses communication barriers for India’s diverse population.

Digital Payments: Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized digital transactions across the country. UPI has empowered millions of individuals and small businesses in rural and remote areas to make fast, secure and low-cost digital payments, significantly advancing financial inclusion. UPI is now live in over eight countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius and Qatar, making India a global trailblazer in digital payments.

- UPI serves more than 55.49 crore individuals, 6.5 crore merchants, and connects 731 banks on one platform, making it the world’s largest digital payment system.
- UPI powers 85% of India’s digital payments and nearly 50% of global real-time digital payments. State/UT-wise and District-wise UPI statistics are available at <https://www.npci.org.in/product/ecosystem-statistics/upi>.

- Digital payment transactions comprise Retail Digital Payments and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transactions. The year-wise growth in the total number of digital payment transactions since 2021 is as follows:

Calendar Year	Total Digital Payments		Growth in Percentage	
	Volume (Crore)	Value (Lakh Crore)	Growth Volume	Growth Value
CY-2021	6364.52	1675.24	-	-
CY-2022	10361.04	2004.26	62.79%	19.64%
CY-2023	14966.51	2320.84	44.45%	15.80%
CY-2024	20786.56	2759.53	38.89%	18.90%
CY-2025	26761.90	3143.67	28.75%	13.92%

*Source: RBI

Indian IT/ ITeS industry: Our IT industry has been progressively contributing to the growth of exports and creation of employment opportunities. India's digital economy is creating large-scale employment opportunities. The IT and ITeS industry is estimated to have generated USD 283 billion in revenue in FY25, according to NASSCOM. India’s 2,100+ Global Capability

Centres (GCCs) employ around 26 lakh professionals across engineering, analytics, cyber security, and AI-driven roles.

Digital Entrepreneurship: To strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Electronics and ICT domain across Tier-II and Tier-III cities in India, MeitY has undertaken several initiatives to promote technology-driven startups and innovation ecosystems in the country. Some of these initiatives are:

- The Government has set up 73 Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centres of which 65 centres are located in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- ‘Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups (GENESIS)’ Scheme envisages scaling up about 1,600 technology startups, to discover, nurture and grow technology startups. The scheme is being implemented through 65 incubation centres as Implementing Agencies

Strengthening Digital Infrastructure: The Government has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen the digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas, by improving broadband connectivity, expanding digital service delivery, promoting digital literacy and enabling access to services in regional languages and citizen awareness. These include:

- Expansion of broadband connectivity through BharatNet to Gram Panchayats and rural institutions. As of June 2026, a total of 2.21 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service-ready under the BharatNet Project across the country. During June 2026, BharatNet Point of Presence (PoPs) at 80,472 GPs were operational.
 - Under the Government-funded 4G Saturation Project and other mobile connectivity projects, till June 2026, 24,812 mobile towers have been commissioned in the country.
 - Common Services Centres (CSCs) provide over 800 government and business services digitally, enhancing last-mile service delivery through Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). As of May 2026, 5.01 lakh CSCs are functional across the country, including 3.91 lakh at the Gram Panchayat level.
 - Promotion of digital literacy through the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA). A total of 6.39 crore individuals were trained across the country. The scheme was concluded on 31.03.2024. As per the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS), 2022–23, 78.4% of persons aged 15–24 years reported the ability to send messages with attached files, indicating improved digital skills among youth. The survey also reported that 94.2% of rural households and 97.1% of urban households possessed a telephone/mobile phone.
-
- FutureSkills Prime provides skilling, reskilling, and upskilling in emerging technologies. Under the programme, so far, more than 34+ lakh candidates have registered on the portal, out of which there have been 23+ lakh candidates enrolled/trained in various courses.
 - National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) provides digital literacy and skill development courses, including ACC and CCC, through 56 Centres and a network of over 9,000 partner institutes across the country. 31.92 Lakh+ candidates have been trained by NIELIT during the last three financial years.
 - NIELIT Digital University (NDU) Platform: The platform delivers online and blended skill-based industry-aligned courses in emerging technologies, such as Artificial

Intelligence, Cybersecurity etc. So far 2.75 lakh+ candidates have registered under the NIELIT Digital University Platform.

- Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is the Nation's One Nation, One Digital platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs. As a participant in DIKSHA, States/UTs have generated and contributed over 3.67 lakh content in local/regional languages enabling multilingualism. Overall, 579.41 crore learning sessions for 2.29 crore users have been completed on DIKSHA by students, teachers and other stakeholders.
- Cyber awareness - Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) programme has been implemented by MeitY for generating human resources in Information Security and creating general awareness on various aspects of cyber hygiene & cyber security among the masses. So far, 6,650 awareness workshops have been conducted across the country, covering 11.37 lakh+ participants, including school/college students, teachers, law enforcement, government personnel, and the general public.
