

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1713
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 29.07.2026

ROLE OF STATES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

1713. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

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

- (a) the status of implementation of Digital India Programme across States including Kallakurichi Lok Sabha Constituency of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised under the Programme during the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to expand broadband connectivity, Common Service Centres and digital literacy initiatives in rural and remote areas;
- (d) the details of steps taken by the Government to ensure data privacy, cybersecurity and protection of citizens' digital rights under the Programme;
- (e) whether independent evaluation of impact on employment generation, governance efficiency and digital inclusion has been conducted;
- (f) the role of States in monitoring and implementation at ground level including Tamil Nadu; and
- (g) whether any timelines have been fixed for next phase of Digital India expansion and if so, its key measurable outcomes thereof?

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

(a) to (g): 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 implemented several initiatives and policy measures to improve digital access and e-governance across the country including rural areas of Tamil Nadu. Details of some of the key initiatives are as follows:

Digital Connectivity and Digital Infrastructure: 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 116.69+ cr in March 2022 to 133+ crores in

March, 2026. In Tamil Nadu, the total number of telephone subscribers has crossed 8.41 crore.

- Internet subscribers jumped from 25.15 crore in March 2014 to 82.48 cr in March 2022 to 109.27 crore in March, 2026. In Tamil Nadu, the total number of internet subscribers has crossed 6.90 crore.
- **BharatNet** - Linking Villages to the Internet: As of June 2026, about 2.21 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) have been made service ready under BharatNet project in the country including 1,1118 GPs in Tamil Nadu.
- Under the Government-funded 4G Saturation Project and other mobile connectivity projects, till June 2026, 257 mobile towers have been commissioned in Tamil Nadu.
- As on 30.06.2026, total of Rs. 1886 crores have been disbursed under various ongoing projects of Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) in Tamil Nadu.
- **Aadhaar**: Aadhaar created a trusted biometric identity platform for secure and instant digital authentication. Aadhaar enrolments increased from 0.42 crore in 2010-11 to over 144+ crore by June 2026. In Tamil Nadu, over 8.18 crore Aadhaar have been generated.
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**: 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 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.
- **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. More than 2.18 cr Aadhaar enabled registrations have taken place in the state of Tamil Nadu to avail DigiLocker services.
- **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, including 17 services integrated by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- **eSign (e-Hastakshar)**: e-Sign is an online electronic signature service, which can be integrated with service delivery applications via an Application Programming Interface (API) to facilitate an e-Sign user to digitally sign a document. e-Sign service facilitates instant signing of documents online by citizens in a legally acceptable form. Total 155.56 Cr. e-Sign issued by all e-Sign Service Providers (ESPs).
- **API Setu**: API Setu project intends to facilitate promotion of efficient sharing of data among data owners and inter-and-intra Governmental agencies to achieve the objective of interoperable systems in order to deliver services in an integrated manner. Currently, the portal has published 8,904 APIs provided by many Central and State Government departments on API Setu platform.
- **MeriPehchaan/National Single Sign-On (NSSO)** is a user authentication service wherein single set of credentials can provide access to multiple online applications or services. Currently, 17,540 services of various Ministries/States have been integrated with NSSO. Over 233.59 Crore transactions have taken place on the MeriPehchaan platform.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** leverages Aadhaar to transfer welfare benefits directly to beneficiaries, ensuring transparency and eliminating duplicate/fake beneficiaries. Over Rs. 52 lakh crore has been transferred through DBT nationwide.

- **e-Sanjeevani** – 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, including more than 4.29 lakh patients from the State of Tamil Nadu.
- **Common Services Centres (CSCs)** provide over 800 government and business services digitally, enhancing last-mile service delivery through Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). As on May 2026, 5.01 lakh CSCs are functional across the country, including 3.91 lakh at the Gram Panchayat level. In Tamil Nadu, 18,632 CSCs are operational, of which 6,253 are at the Gram Panchayat level. The details are also available on the CSC portal at <https://csc.gov.in>.

In addition to the above, various Government services, including issuance of certificates, pension-related services, and public welfare schemes, are being delivered through State Government portals and mobile applications. Tamil Nadu e-Governance agency (TNeGA) has developed e-Sevai application for online delivery of various citizen centric services of government department. It facilitates the Citizen to apply for Government services without the manual intervention, the services are end to end computerized. The list of services can be accessed at <https://www.tnesevai.tn.gov.in/Citizen/PortalLogin.aspx>.

Building Digital Skills: India's digital transformation goes beyond mere access; it focuses on empowering people and institutions to use technology effectively, driving inclusive growth, strengthening digital governance, and enabling citizens across the nation.

- **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)** is one of the world's largest digital literacy initiatives with over 6.39 Crore persons getting trained nationwide (against the target of 6 Crore). In the state of Tamil Nadu, 14.07+ lakh candidates were trained under the Scheme.
- **FutureSkills Prime**, a collaborative initiative of the Government of India and NASSCOM, provides skilling, reskilling, and upskilling in emerging technologies. So far, over 34 lakh candidates have registered on the portal, with more than 23 lakh enrolled/trained in various courses, including over 5.81 lakh candidates from Tamil Nadu.
- **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. NIELIT has a strong presence in Tamil Nadu through its Centre at Chennai, and 35+ partner institutes across the State. In last 03 years, through its wide network, NIELIT has trained/skilled 37500+ candidates in the State of Tamil Nadu.

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.

Employment Generation in Electronics Manufacturing: The growth of the electronics manufacturing sector has led to substantial employment generation. As per industry estimates, it supports around 25 lakh jobs, including direct and indirect employment.

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 ecosystem in the country. Some of these initiatives are:

- 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. Out of these, five (05) centres have been established in Tamil Nadu, at Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli
- **‘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

Data Privacy, Cyber awareness and protection of Citizens’ digital rights: Government is committed to ensuring an open, safe, trusted and accountable cyberspace. Several legal, technical, and administrative policy measures have been implemented to address cyber security challenges in the country. The Government has taken several measures to strengthen Data privacy, cyber security mechanisms and digital rights, in the country, which inter alia includes:

- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (“Act”) has been enacted as a principle based and sector agnostic framework for the protection of digital personal data.
- To operationalise the Act, the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 (“Rules”) were notified on 13 November 2025. The Act and the Rules provide that personal data be processed only for lawful purposes, with free, informed, specific and unambiguous consent, preceded or accompanied by a notice setting out the personal data being collected and the purposes for which it is intended to be processed.
- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is designated as the national agency for responding to cyber security incidents under the provisions of section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000. CERT-In works with other agencies involved in ensuring cybersecurity including Telecom Security Operations Centre (TSOC), India Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), National Centre Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), etc.
- The Government has established the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) for protection of critical information infrastructure in the country under the provisions of section 70A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.
- CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers, networks and data on an ongoing basis.
- Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA): 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/colleges students, teachers, law enforcement, government personnel, and general public.

Assessments and impact studies conducted:

The Government has, from time to time, undertaken assessment and impact studies of e-Governance initiatives under the Digital India Programme through periodic monitoring, stakeholder consultations and independent third-party evaluations. The impact of major

schemes is generally evaluated by independent third-party agencies, which is not involved in the implementation of the scheme to ensure fair independent assessment.

The third-party evaluation of Electronic Governance scheme was conducted through India Institute of Public administration (IIPA), Delhi in November, 2025. The study has highlighted that the Digital India Programme has significantly transformed citizen service delivery by leveraging technology to improve access to information and integrate government services. It has enhanced transparency, reduced service delivery time, promoted paperless and faceless governance, expanded digital inclusion, and empowered citizens through improved social and economic outcomes.

Further, a mid-term impact assessment of Common Services Centres (CSC 2.0) was carried out by the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, while the End-Term Impact Assessment was conducted by the Academy of Management Studies (AMS). The assessment reported that 98% of beneficiaries were able to obtain the required services through CSCs, 93% perceived a positive impact on their lives and 95% expressed satisfaction with the services delivered through CSCs.

Budget Allocation and Utilisation: The Digital India Programme is an umbrella programme comprising projects implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments and States/UTs, each with its own budgetary provisions.

States/UTs play a key role in implementation of Digital India initiatives, working in close coordination with the Central Government, which provides the policy framework, guidelines and support.

States/UTs facilitate the effective implementation of Digital India initiatives through their designated departments/agencies, including deployment and operation of digital infrastructure and delivery of citizen-centric services at the State, district and local levels.

MeitY implements eight Central Sector sub-schemes under the Programme, for which no State/UT-wise budget allocation is made. The details of the budget allocated and utilised by MeitY under the Digital India Programme during the last five financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
2021-22	6388.00	4504.36
2022-23	5400.50	3863.13
2023-24	4428.01	4174.14
2024-25	4173.00	3784.93
2025-26	5144.45	4638.28
