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The Role Of Digitalisation For Rural Development In India

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Introduction

India has made remarkable progress in its journey towards becoming a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. From expanding internet access in remote villages to revolutionising public service delivery through digital platforms, the country has bridged the urban-rural divide like never before. The digital economy, which contributed 11.74% to the national income in 2022-23, is projected to **grow to 13.42% by 2024-25**, driven by advancements in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital infrastructure.

Connectivity and Infrastructure

A robust digital infrastructure forms the backbone of a modern economy. India has significantly expanded mobile networks and improved internet connectivity in rural areas.

Telecom and Internet Penetration

Total telephone connections in India grew from 93.3 crores in March 2014 to 120+ crores in April 2025.

- The overall tele-density in India which was 75.23% in March 2014 rose to 84.49% in October 2024.
- Urban telephone connections rose to 661.36 million in October 2024 as compared to 555.23 million in March 2014 while rural telephone connections increased from 377.78 million in March 2014 to 527.34 million in October 2024.

Internet and Broadband Penetration

Internet connections jumped from 25.15 crore in March 2014 to 96.96 crore in June 2024, registering a growth of 285.53%.

- Broadband connections rose from 6.1 crore in March, 2014 to 94.92 crore in August, 2024 growing by 1452%.
- Out of 6,44,131 villages, 6,15,836 villages have 4G mobile connectivity in the country, as of December 2024.

5G and Connectivity

Since 2016, the rapid expansion of 4G coverage brought high-speed connectivity to every corner of the country. Building on this momentum, the launch of 5G in October 2022 further accelerated India's digital journey, enabling even faster and smarter services. In just 22 months, India set up **4.74 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)**. **As of Now**, 5G services cover 99.6% of the country's districts, with 2.95 lakh BTSs installed in 2023-24 alone. This leap in infrastructure supports a **mobile subscriber base of 116 crore in 2025**, highlighting the scale and reach of India's digital surge.

This improved mobile infrastructure has driven a massive surge in internet access. At the same time, the cost of wireless data has fallen steeply, from Rs. 308 per GB in 2014 to just Rs. 9.34 in 2022, making digital services far more affordable.

BharatNet : Linking Villages to the Internet

A major part of this digital push has been about connecting rural India. As of January 2025, the BharatNet project has brought high-speed internet to over **2.18 lakh Gram Panchayats**. Nearly 6.92 lakh KM of optical fibre cable has been laid under the initiative. Villages that once lacked basic internet access now have digital tools at their doorstep.

Digital Finance and Inclusion

Technology has brought financial services closer to people, especially in rural and remote areas.

UPI : Digital Payment Boom

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transformed digital transactions across the country. **In April 2025, Over 1,867.7 crore transactions worth Rs. 24.77 lakh crore** were carried out using UPI in just one month. The (UPI) system is now used by close to **460 million individuals and 65 million merchants**.

UPI is now live in over seven countries, including the **UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius**, making India a global trailblazer in digital payments. Its growing international adoption is boosting remittances, promoting financial inclusion, and strengthening India's position in the global fintech landscape.

Aadhaar : Building Trust with Technology

The Aadhaar-based e-KYC system has helped simplify processes in both banking and public services. It made verification faster, reduced paperwork, and brought transparency across sectors. **As of April 2025, 141.88 crore Aadhaar IDs** have been generated. Aadhaar has now become a crucial part of India's digital backbone, helping people access services with ease..

Direct Benefits Transfer : A Cleaner Welfare System

Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT), supported by Aadhaar authentication, changed the way subsidies and welfare payments are delivered. People now receive what is rightfully theirs, directly and on time.

The system has also helped clean up beneficiary databases. Over 5.87 crore ineligible ration card holders have been removed and 4.23 crore duplicate or fake LPG connections have been cancelled, making the welfare system more targeted and transparent.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

Launched in 2022, **The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** is a transformative initiative aimed at democratising digital commerce. It envisions creating a level playing field for sellers, buyers and service providers across India, particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Key Achievements

- As of **January 2025**, the sellers and service providers are spread across **616+cities** expanding the geographical coverage of the ONDC network.
- As of **January 2025**, there are more than **7.64 lakh sellers/service providers** registered on the ONDC platform.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

Launched in **2016**, **Government e Marketplace (GeM)**, created in a record time of five months, facilitates **Online procurement** of common use Goods and services required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs.

E-Governance : Empowering Citizens, Enabling Change

In India, e-Governance has revolutionised the way citizens interact with the government by making services more accessible, transparent, and efficient. Through robust digital platforms, it has empowered both citizens and officials, enhancing ease of governance across the country.

Karmayogi Bharat + iGOT

Karmayogi Bharat, under the Mission Karmayogi National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), is reshaping the learning landscape for civil servants in India. The initiative aims to nurture a future ready civil service by equipping officials with the right Attitude, Skills, and Knowledge (ASK) to deliver efficient and citizen centric governance.

As of May 2025, Over 1.07 crore Karmayogis have been onboarded onto the platform, which **offers 2,588 courses** spanning diverse governance domains. With **more than 3.24 crore** learning certificates issued, the platform facilitates continuous learning through online, face to face, and blended formats. It also supports peer learning via forums, career path guidance, and robust assessments, building a credible agile and capable public workforce aligned with the vision of a New India.

Key Achievements

- From January 2025 to June 11, 2025, a total of 9.42 crore users signed up, including 33.06 lakh sign-ups in the month of June alone.
- **2031.99 lakh yearly user signups** recorded in 2024 as compared to 9.98 lakh signups recorded in 2015.

UMANG

Launched in **2017**, **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)** is developed to drive Mobile Governance in India. UMANG provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India **e-Gov Services** ranging from Central to Local Government bodies.

Key Achievements

- **8.21 crore** user registrations and **597 crore** transactions recorded as of **May 2025**.
- **2,300 government services** are available on the UMANG portal in 23 Indian languages as on May 2025.

Digital Capacity Building

India's digital transformation is not just about access; it's also about enabling people and institutions to use technology effectively. Over the past 11 years, this approach has driven inclusive growth, empowered citizens and strengthened digital governance across the nation.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) was approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2017 to promote digital literacy and empower rural India through technology. The initiative aimed to make at least 6 crore individuals digitally literate, enabling them to confidently access digital services and information.

In addition to PMGDISHA, several other initiatives have been launched to expand digital literacy, enhance technical skills, and nurture innovations :

- **NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) Deemed to be University** : On July 15, 2024, the Ministry of Education notified NIELIT Ropar and 11 of its units as a Deemed University under a distinct category, with a target to skill 37 lakh candidates over the next five years.
- **Skill Development in ESDM (Electronics System Design and Manufacturing) Sector** : Under the two ESDM skill development schemes, a total of 4,93,928 candidates have been registered so far. Out of these, 4,93,926 have received training, 3,74,456 have been certified, and 1,37,762 have successfully secured job placements.
- **Future Skills Prime (Programme for Re-skilling / Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability)**: Under the programme more than 22 lakh candidates signed-up, more than 11 lakh candidates enrolled, more than 5.3 lakh candidates completed their courses, 11,519 Government officials trained.
- **Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project** : 95,206 candidates trained, 31 awareness programmes conducted.
- **Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme** : Under the Chips to Start-Up (C2S) Programme, support has been extended to 113 organisations, including 100 academic institutions and R&D organisations, along with 13 start-ups and MSMEs.

BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) is a pioneering initiative under the National Language Translation Mission (NLTm), aimed at bridging India's linguistic diversity through technology. By harnessing the power of artificial intelligence and natural language processing, BHASHINI enables access to digital content and public services in multiple Indian languages. Implemented by the Digital India BHASHINI Division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the platform is helping realise the vision of a truly inclusive Digital India.

National Quantum Mission

With the broader aim to harness quantum technologies in India to bolster sectors like communication, cryptography, and computing, National Quantum Mission has outlined specific objectives to advance India's capabilities in the quantum realm.

Advancing Strategic Tech Capabilities

India is rapidly advancing in cutting-edge technologies to strengthen its position as a global innovation hub. Focused efforts are being made to boost AI capabilities, enhance compute infrastructure and develop a self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem.

India AI Mission

The India AI Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 7 March 2024, is a landmark initiative to build a comprehensive and inclusive AI ecosystem in India. It focuses on seven strategic pillars : Compute Capacity, Innovation Centre, Datasets Platform, Application Development Initiative, Future Skills, Startup Financing and Safe & Trusted AI. With a total outlay of **Rs. 10, 371.92 Crore over five years**, the mission aims to advance responsible AI innovation aligned with national priorities.

As of 30 May 2025, India's national compute capacity has crossed 34,000 GPUs, laying a strong foundation for AI-led research and development.

India's digital journey over the past decade has not only transformed services and governance but also laid the groundwork for strong economic growth. Digital industries have been growing at a faster pace than traditional sectors, showing how technology is becoming a key driver of progress. By 2030, the digital economy is expected to make up nearly one-fifth of the country's total economy. This shift highlights how digital advancements are helping to create new opportunities, boost innovation and make India a leader in the global digital landscape.

National Initiatives : Building the Digital Backbone for the Health Care

The launch of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in (ABDM) in 2021 represents the most ambitious attempt to create unified digital health infrastructure. Its building blocks include a Health Facility Registry, a Healthcare Professionals Registry, the Ayushman Bharat health Account

(ABHA) for individuals, and the United Health Interface (UHI). As of August 2025, more than 3.3 lakh health facilities and 4.7 lakh professionals have been registered under ABDM, with millions of ABHA IDs issued nationwide. When fully realised ABDM will allow someone living in Bihar to carry their medical history seamlessly to a tertiary hospital in Delhi, reducing duplication of tests and improving continuity of care.

Beyond ABDM, the government has also laid out the National Digital Health Blueprint, which provides the architectural framework for data flows, interoperability and standards. Together with ABDM, it envisions a ‘digital health highway’ where every citizen can securely store and share health data with consent.

Telemedicine too has grown dramatically. The government’s eSanjeevani platform has facilitated over 150 million consultations till date, providing remote access to doctors for rural and underserved communities. This complements private sector platforms like Practo and Lybrate, which saw consultations surge by over 200% during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Equally important is the regulatory ecosystems. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s evolving guidelines on digital health seek to safeguard patient consent and privacy – critical for trust in digital systems. Importantly, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act introduced new legal safeguards for sensitive health information. While enforcement remains a challenge, it signals to patients and providers alike that India is serious about building trust into its digital systems.

Digitisation and Rural India

For rural India, Health and nutrition challenges remain deeply interconnected. Malnutrition exacerbates disease burden, weakens immunity and increases maternal and child morbidity. According to National Family Health Survey-5, around 35.5% of Indian children under five are stunted, and 57% of women aged 15-49 are anaemic. Digital health tools can play a transformative role in tackling these challenges :

Empowering frontline workers :

Mobile applications now enable Anganwadi and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers to track growth charts, anaemia status and immunisation schedules in real time.

Nutrition Dashboards :

Platforms like the POSHAN (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Tracker integrate nutrition data across states, guiding targeted interventions.

Tele-nutrition Counselling :

Linking mothers in rural India with nutritionists via low-bandwidth application can strengthen Integrated Child Development Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan outcomes.

Unless digital health also addresses nutrition, rural inequities will persist and India's demographic dividend will remain at risk.

Digital for people, not just Systems

India's digital health transformation is real and promising, but its success will depend on more than applications, platforms, or AI algorithms. Technology must be adapted by providers, trusted by patients, and integrated seamlessly into existing systems.

For rural India in particular, digital health cannot be divorced from nutrition. When digital tools empower frontline workers, connect mothers with nutritionists and integrate malnutrition data into health systems, India will truly harness the power of technology.

Digital Transformation in healthcare is not about systems – it is about people. The ultimate measure of success will be whether a child in a village avoids stunting, a pregnant mother receives timely nutrition advice, or a cancer patient's records are seamlessly available across hospitals. It designed inclusively, India's digital health journey can be not just modern, but equitable, humane, and future-ready.

Mental Health in the Digital Age

The 7 C's of mental health offer frameworks for well-being, emphasising on personal growth, relationships, support and stress management.

- **Competence** : Feeling capable in one's abilities and actions.
- **Confidence** : Believing in oneself and having a positive self-image.
- **Connection** : Building Meaningful relationships.
- **Coping** : Developing healthy ways to manage stress.
- **Compassion** : Practicing kindness towards self and others.
- **Community** : Feeling part of a larger supportive group.

- **Care / Calmness** : Prioritising self-care and finding inner peace.

As stated, these principles help to build resilience, manage stress and foster a positive mindset by focusing on skills, self-belief, relationships, ethics and empathy for oneself and others.

Social Media can make us feel all sorts of conflicting feelings, from anxious and isolated to connected and excited. Most research, however, suggests that social media can have an overall negative impact on mental health depending on who is using it and how.

- **Negative Impacts** : Increased anxiety, depression, cyber bullying, social comparison, loneliness, poor sleep, attention issues, poor frustration tolerance, emotional dys-regulation and other behavioural problems.
- **Positive Impacts** : Awareness and education, enhanced social connections, access to support communities and broader information access.
- **Vulnerable Groups** : People with pre-existing vulnerabilities face higher risks for addiction and mental illness due to excessive device use.
- **Developmental concerns** : Potential for delayed language, social and emotional skills, especially in young children due to lack of in-life real exposures.

However, there are ways to make the online experience positive, including setting limits around usage. To be mindful about social media use, there is a need to know when it is becoming too overwhelming or triggering.

Here are some limits setting strategies :

- Track time on apps. Some apps have built-in timers that can help track time and set reminders to exit the app. One could also set a timer to be mindful about usage.
- Turn off push notifications. Notifications are designed to get us to check apps, which increases the likelihood that we will start scrolling. Turning them off can help to stay off apps.
- Moving social media apps off from home screen. That can make one less likely to use them.
- Set up 'no phone zones' and 'no phone times' where one does not use the phone, such as the bedroom after a certain time, at the dinner table, or Sunday mornings.

Strategies & Recommendations

- **Parental / Adult Role** : Set device limits (e.g., no phones at meals), lead by example foster open communication, teach digital literacy and model healthy tech habits.
- **School / Community Role** : Increase mental health professionals, provide teacher training, develop anti-bullying policies, and implement digital wellness programmes.
- **Youth Empowerment** : Encourage self-awareness, teach emotional regulation and promote responsible online behaviour.
- **Tools & Resources** : Utilise mindfulness apps, school-based interventions and resources focused on online safety and resilience.

Digital Tools that Simplify Wellness

Lets explore some such amazing free tools today. Each one solves a real problem, such as too much sitting, scattered health papers, no nearby doctors, weak babies, forgotten old remedies, scary diseases, and lack of motivation.

Fit India App: Walk, Run, Dance, and Win with your Whole Village

The Ministry of Sports and youth Affairs released this free app that turns boring exercise into the most fun game ever. Over 50 million people downloaded it by 2026.

Let's explore how it works. You open the app, keep your phone in your pocket, and get busy doing your daily routine as it observes how well you are managing your wellness. Walking to school? It counts. Running to catch the bus? It counts. Playing Kabaddi with friends? Every step counts| The app shows you a number climbing up – 1,000steps, 5,000, 10,000. It's like a video game score but for real life. Doctors say 10,000 steps a day keeps you super fit. The app cheers when you hit goals with fun sounds and colourful confetti on the screen.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM): Your Magic Health ID Card on Your Phone

Imagine if every single thing about your health – every doctor visit, every blood test, every vaccine you got as a baby, every X-ray, every medicine – was stored safely in one place on your phone. And only you could decide who sees it. That's ABDM| The Health Ministry created this for free, and they call the ID card 'ABHA' (Ayushman Bharat Health Account). Think of it like an Aadhaar card, but for health instead of identity. By 2026, 35 crore people (more than a third of India) will have this magic ID.

Lts's understand step by step. You sign up once and get a 14-digit ABHA number (like 12-3456-77890-1234). This number is yours forever, from birth to old age. It's free. You also get a username like Your Name@abdm, which is easy to remember. Now every time you visit a hospital or clinic which is connected to ABDM (over 1 lakh health centres are), they upload your reports to your ABHA account. These are blood sugar tests, heart scan reports, doctor's notes and whatnot| You open the ABHA app on your phone and see everything in well –organised folders. No more hunting for papers or that test report from two years ago, which are generally difficult to find when you need them.

Your ABHA connects to eSanjeevani (Video Doctor calls, covered next), to pharmacy apps (so your medicine history is there), to insurance companies (claim settlements faster) and to labs, Remember those vaccine cards you got as a child and are lost? ABHA stores all that digitally.

eSanjeevani : Talk to a doctor on video call – No Long Lines, No Travel

You can download the eSanjeevani app or visit the project's website. When using it, choose your problem from a list, like fever, skin rash, stomach-ache, cough or even mental stress. Select a time slot that is suitable and you are ready for a virtual consultation with the doctor.

At the scheduled time, you get a notification. Click it and your phone camera opens. A real doctor appears on the screen | You talk to them, show them the problem (like a skin rash on your arm by moving your phone camera closer) and answer their questions. Just like a real clinic visit but you are sitting at home in comfortable clothes|.

It is not difficult to understand why eSanjeevani is perfect for India. 70 per cent of our population lives in villages, but 70 per cent of doctors live in cities. An expecting mother in a remote village can't travel hundreds of kms to the district hospital every week for checkups. With eSanjeevani, a doctor checks on her via video from her own home, saving money and time. Leave aside the convenience of the experience itself.

POSHAN Tracker : Helping Mothers Raise Strong, Healthy Kids

POSHAN stands for "Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition". The objective here is to make sure every child eats well and grows strong| The women and Child Development Ministry released this app especially for mothers, pregnant women and anyone taking care of young kids (0-6 years old). Over 1 crore users, mostly mothers and Anganwadi workers, are using it.

This app works like a complete food diary plus a smart coach. You type or select the food your baby had today, like "1cup milk, 1 roti, half a bowl dal, some mashed banana". The app calculates if they got enough protein, vitamins, iron and calcium. Small children need different amounts of nutrition at different ages which the app knows | It will analyse the data and will inform you if you have done a "Great job" or just "Okay".

Every month, you enter the child's weight and height (you can measure at home or Anganwadi). The app converts it into a chart. Is your child growing as per expectations? If there is anything missing, the app alerts you. It is an early warning that something's wrong. Small children need iron syrups, vitamin drops, deworming tablets. Mothers may forget such tasks in the daily rush of cooking and housework. POSHAN Tracker sends gentle reminders - "Time for Riya's iron dose" You mark it done, and it tracks if your child is getting medicines regularly.

AYUSH stands for Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. These are all traditional Indian medicine systems that are thousands of years old. Our grandparents used *tulsi* for cough, turmeric for cuts and yoga for back pain long before modern medicines existed.

Under the AYUSH apps project, the main app released for everyone's use is called **“Ayush Sanjivani.”** Though this is not the only one. There are over 2 crore downloads of the app by early 2025.

The app combines grandmother's remedies with science and comes up with suggestions that work without complicating your health with side effects.

The Success of ‘Digital India’ in Rural India

The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) has trained 6.39 crore rural people in digital literacy, thanks to which every rural household has at least one digitally literate person. Digital learning platforms and ed-tech based platforms have made education more accessible. As mentioned earlier, today about 60 per cent of the content on the internet in India is in regional languages. Online courses provided by common service centres, registration for examinations and digital access to government services have benefitted rural students. Due to these, the condition of education in remote areas is improving.

The new version of PMGDISHA also covers farmers, artisans and self-help groups (SHGs). Here they are given digital education and for this, the help of local learning centers as well as mobile apps is taken. The reach of mobile phone in rural households has now increased to 94.2 per cent, also that everyone can take advantage of online education and skill development services. Common Service Centres are now turning into a kind of community centers where digital literacy as well as vocational training, financial literacy and information about government schemes are being disseminated. At the same time, the development of rural human resources is gaining momentum.

Schemes like SWAYAM platform, National Digital Library and PM e-Vidya have given millions of children the opportunity to study online. Digital platforms have kept children studying when schools were closed during COVID-19. Schemes like Digital India ‘Bhashini’ are providing voice-based services in different Indian languages so that people can access government digital services even if they cannot type. All this will not happen overnight because it is not just about

providing services but aspects like the mindset, preparation, skills, awareness, education and willpower of the service takers also play a key role in their success. The spread of such cutting-edge services will be slow at present but it should be expected that eventually they will reach every home in the same way as social media has reached. It is important that they are easy to use and give concrete results.

Employment Opportunities

Now-a-days it is not surprising that a customer service centre or business process outsourcing (BPO) centre is running in a village or town. Digital India and reliable internet available through mobile connectivity have made such examples common. Digital India has opened up new employment opportunities such as IT support, data entry, content creation and online sales, which has reduced the pace of migration from villages to cities. Meanwhile, the trend of digital payment has increased in rural India. At the national level, the number of monthly transactions through UPI has exceeded 10 billion in 2025. A new record was registered in the case of UPI transactions on 2 August 2025 when 70 crore and 70 lakh UPI transactions were registered in a single day. This facility has made financial inclusion possible and provided convenience to small traders.

Youth are getting opportunities to learn and find jobs in new areas like Cloud computing, Artificial Intelligence and cyber security. Government's digital literacy schemes and campaigns (like Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan) have provided digital education to crores of people which includes the use of computers and internet.

Network of Common Service Centres

These days Common Service Centres are opened in every village of India, where people can avail government services like birth certificate, pension, banking and electricity bills online. Facilities like DigiLocker, Aadhaar, and UPI are available to each one of us. Hundreds of government services have been digitised and are available online. People can download government documents, send money, avail government schemes, file income tax and GST returns from home. Such things increase transparency in government functioning and help in curbing corruption.

According to the data of June 2025, out of the total 5,60,314 functioning Common Service Centers (CSCs) in the country, 4,36,208 CSCs are in villages, which is about 78 per cent.

With the increase in the number of these CSCs and Digital kiosks, local youth are getting employment as operators, trainers and digital service agents. The facility of financial technology at the rural level, mobile banking kiosks and micro-ATMs etc. have created employment opportunities for members of self-help groups and small vendors. On the other hand, digital

agriculture tools and agriculture apps have opened up new employment opportunities in agri-tech advisory services and agriculture support services that did not exist earlier.

Promoting Rural Entrepreneurship

Digital platforms have enabled rural entrepreneurs to access markets, leverage e-commerce and business networking. The reach of Wi-Fi, digital payments and e-commerce platforms at the village level has enabled rural artisans, farmers and self-help groups to sell their products to customers across the country, reducing dependence on traditional intermediaries. Government's rural financial technology and digital marketing support has given small businesses access to credit, inventory management and participation in online marketplaces. Success stories are emerging from different parts of India, such as rural women selling household goods through WhatsApp and Facebook, or farmers reaching out to new buyers through agri-apps. This shows that digital entrepreneurship is transforming the rural economy and driving inclusive growth for rural development.

Some Examples of Digital Expansion

- **BharatNet** : High-speed internet was brought to villages by connecting 2,18,000 gram panchayats.
- **Connectivity** : About 6,92,000 km of optical fibre cable has been used in the country.
- **Communication** : Today, 4.74 lakh 5G towers connected to 4G and 5G networks have now reached 99.6 per cent of the Districts.
- **PMGDISHA** : So far, more than 6.39 crore villagers have received digital literacy training.
- **UPI** : In April 2025, 1,867.7 crore transactions were done, with a total value of Rs. 24.77 lakh crore. On August 2, 70 crore 70 lakh UPI transactions were done in a single day.
- **Common Service Center** : Out of the total 5,60,314 working Common Service Centers in the country, 4,36,208 Common Service Centers are in villages.
- **Business-friendly environment** : UPI has supported 6.5 crore merchants.

Conclusion

The Digital India programme, which aims to provide digital facilities to every citizen, deliver government services online and make the country a knowledge based society, has shown good results to a large extent. The way technology has affected the lives of common people is not less than a revolution. We have been successful in taking the internet and other means of communication to every village. Through these, digital facilities have reached there, but challenges remain as skill development required to enable common people to take full advantage of these facilities. The challenge of digital divide has shrunk as compared to earlier, but it is still a reality. We will have to continue our efforts in the coming years and decades to establish a knowledge society.

A small part of India's IT revolution has already taken place, while the big revolution is yet to happen. The government has named the current decade as **Tech Decade** and we are assuming IT to contribute to one trillion dollars in our immediate target of becoming a five trillion dollar economy. The Chances of this are also high because the current government seems more alert and prepared towards new opportunities than before. The share of IT and IT based services in India's GDP is estimated to reach 10 percent in 2025, which was only 1.2 percent in 1998. If it can be increased to 15 percent in the current decade, it will be a great success.

If everything goes well, the current Tech Decade can prove to be the take-off of our global journey. The most important thing in achieving big results will be the comprehensiveness of these efforts, that is, the participation of our villages and rural population in the digital development journey. Digital India can become the pillar of this participation.

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