

INDIA – MALAYSIA

Bilateral Relations in the 21st Century

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Dr. I. Parvin Banu

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28	THE ROLE OF TRADE DIPLOMACY IN ENHANCING INVESTMENT RELATIONS Dr. U. Praveen, Dr. H. Punithavathy	153
29	STRENGTHENING TIES: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND INDIA Dr. B. Indira Priyadharshini	159
30	EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH EXCHANGE: A GLOBAL APPROACH TO REDUCING PLACEMENT ANXIETY Dr. B. Rohini	165
31	BEYOND BORDERS: INDIA–MALAYSIA RISING TOGETHER IN TRADE, TECH & TRUST Dr. D. Suganya	170
32	THE ROLE OF INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Dr. M. Deepa	174
33	FOSTERING TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY Dr. M. Nirmala	179
34	PROMOTING TOURISM AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION Dr. M. Shanmuga Priya, Dr. P. Anitha	185
35	INDIAN DIASPORA AND THEIR ROLE IN MALAYSIA Dr. P. V. Nandhini, B. Nandhini	190
36	INDIA-MALAYSIA TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES: A PATHWAY TO ECONOMIC GROWTH Dr. T. Kiruthika	196
37	INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND DIGITAL ECONOMY Dr. T. Mohana Sundari	201
38	THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN MALAYSIA: HISTORY, CONTRIBUTION, AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES Helen Swarna. VC, Shaline. S, Harish. M	206

CHAPTER – 37

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

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Abstract---Digital infrastructure delivers the physical and software resources that are required to enable the use of data, processes and computerized devices etc. The Government of India (GOI) has mainly focused on transforming India into a digitally empowered citizen. This paper mainly focuses on digital Infrastructure development in India like high-speed internet, Unique Identity of citizens, mobile banking, Common Service Center (CSC), cloud space for citizens, government e- Marketplace, open forge project and digital currency etc. The barriers in digital infrastructure development such as digital illiteracy and less awareness about innovations in new technologies are also mentioned. It is concluded that digital infrastructure development in India enables citizens to have effective, transparent and accountable government services. India's digital transformation has emerged as a critical driver of economic growth, innovation, and social development. This paper explores the opportunities and challenges presented by India's digital economy. With the government's Digital India initiative and the rapid adoption of digital technologies, India stands at the forefront of global digital innovation. However, challenges such as digital divide, cyber security threats, and regulatory complexities pose significant hurdles to realizing the full potential of India's digital transformation. By analyzing current trends, identifying key opportunities, and addressing challenges, this study aims to provide insights into India's digital economy and its impact on various sectors.

Keywords---Digital Infrastructure, Digital Economy, Digital Growth.

I. Introduction

In this age of digital economy, it has become necessary for every country in the world to adopt it seriously as it has become the need of the hour. But, at the same time, it is also a challenge. In the society surrounding us, people, communities, government and even business organizations are following the digital technology to take decisions, to make goods and to deliver services more digital economy refers to both the digital access of

goods and services, and the use of digital technology to help businesses. Digital economy is a term that is often used to cover this activity, but is hard to define. At present time when throughout the whole world, information and communication technologies continue to advance at incredible speed, Digitalization in every walk of life is one of the most fundamental period of transformation we have ever witnessed. Digital India was a flagship programme launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015 – with keeping in view an objective of connecting rural areas with high-speed internet networks and improving digital literacy.

II. Review of Literature

Prof. Rahul Wantmure and Dr. Murlidhar Dhanawade (2016) Indian cities and cities around the world is gradually evolving. It is not a sudden decision with planned infrastructure in advance. The concept of Smart City has suggested in a planned city, with such impact that each activity carried out in the city is supervised and controlled by technology. Internet of things is an emerging technology in the IT world that can be explored to its zenith to achieve the goal of building a smart city. Building alone is not enough, but to maintain and sustain their identity. The integrity and authenticity is another task to be processed and implemented.

Mr. Kyusoo Chong and Hongki Sung (2015) Authors aim is to study investigate the prediction technology based road safety on the roads large volumes of data. This study examines actual cases of road management systems and technologies of road safety analysis in Korea and other countries. Types and ease of use of the information collected through the road of a road management system are analyzed. Based on the result, the limitations of existing technologies and management systems are analyzed.

Objectives

1. To analyze and interpret the concept of digital India programme.
2. To trace out the significance of this project.
3. To find out the problems and challenges faced in implementation of this programme.



III. Under Digital India Programme in India, the following aspects are to be taken in to consideration

1. Broadband Highways : Under this heading, the aim is to cover 250000 village Panchayats under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) by December 2016. Nationwide internet infrastructure (NII) would integrate the network and cloud infrastructure in the country to provide high speed connectivity and cloud platform to various government departments up to the panchayat level.
2. Public Internet Access Programme : One Common Service Centre (CSC) would be provided to each gram panchayat and 150,000 Post Offices are proposed to be converted into multi service centers.
3. Governance : IT would be used to make the delivery of government services more effectively. There would be integration of services and platform-UIDAI, Payment Gateway, Mobile Seva platform, Public redressal etc., through IT. All information would be available in electronic form
4. Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity : The aim is to increase network penetration and to provide mobile connectivity to 44000 villages by 2018 with investment of RS 16000.

5. IT for Jobs : The aim is to train 10 million people in towns and villages for IT sector jobs in five years. It also focuses to provide training to three lakhs service delivery agents as part of skill development to run viable businesses delivering IT services. It also concentrates on training of five lakh Rural Workforce on Telecom and Telecom related services and setting up of BPOs in each North-eastern state.

IV. Advantages of Digital India Programme

Due to this digital India mission, all the government services available to people of country through common service delivery outlets. This would be a leading step in the direction of inclusive growth by enabling access to education , healthcare and government services to all the citizens of the country. People can get better advise on health services. Those who can' t afford school/ colleges can get chance to online education. This programme will focus on more and more transparency as all the data would be available online and would be accessible to citizens of the country. E-Governance will help in eradicating corruption and getting things done smoothly and quickly. Digital locker facility will enable the citizen to digitally store their important documents like Pan card, passport, mark sheets etc.

V. Challenges

High level of digital illiteracy is the biggest challenge and hindrance in the success of digital India programme in adaptation of technologies. According to ASSOCHAM-Deloitte report on Digital India, November,2016, around 950 million Indians are still not on internet. There is lack of awareness as well as guidance in this programme as the masses are not familiar with its benefits. It is a big and huge task to connect each and every village , town and city. To Connect 250000 Gram Panchayats through National Optical Fibre is not an easy task. The biggest challenge is ensuring that each panchayat point of broad band is fixed up and functional.

VI. Suggestions

Digital literacy is first step in empowering citizens. People should know how to secure their online data. To make this programme successful, a massive awareness programme has to be conducted. There is pressing need to educate and inform the citizens, especially in rural and remote areas, about the benefits of internet services to increase the growth of internet usage. Manufacturing content is not government' s strength. This mission needs content and service partnerships with telecom companies and other firms. Private sector should be encouraged for development of last mile infrastructure in rural and remote

areas. To encourage private sector, there must be favorable taxation policies ,quicker clearance of projects.

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, India's digital transformation presents a landscape of immense opportunities and For mixable challenges, shaping the trajectory of economic growth, social development, and global competitiveness. The rapid proliferation of digital technologies, propelled by the government's Digital India initiative and the entrepreneurial zeal of its citizens, has ushered in an era of unprecedented innovation and connectivity. However, the journey towards a fully-realized digital economy is fraught with obstacles that require careful navigation and strategic intervention . The challenges of India's digital transformation are multifaceted and complex, ranging from bridging the digital divide to mitigating cyber security threats and navigating regulatory complexities. The digital divide persists as a stark reminder of the disparities in access to technology and digital literacy, particularly among marginalized communities in rural and remote areas.

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