

Report on 1-Day Workshop on “Digital India” 31st July, 2015

Digital India is an initiative of Government of India to integrate the government departments and the people of India. Its objectives are to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically by reducing paperwork and to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India has mainly three core components Creation of digital infrastructure, Delivering services digitally and Digital literacy.

The project is slated for completion by 2019. A two-way platform will be created where both the service providers and the consumers stand to benefit. The scheme will be monitored and controlled by the ‘Digital India Advisory group’ which will be chaired by the Ministry of Communications and IT. It will be an inter-ministerial initiative where all ministries and departments shall offer their own services to the public Healthcare, Education, Judicial services etc. The Public-private-partnership model shall be adopted selectively. In addition, there are plans to restructure the National Informatics Centre (NIC). This project is one among the top priority projects of Government of India.

A 1-day Workshop on “Digital India” organized at Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad on 31st July 2015 aimed at building overall competencies in Allahabad zone and to support the Digital India initiatives. The objective of the event was to augment awareness about the Digital India initiative and its advantages to the researchers, academicians, students, corporate and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE). The event had provided platform for them to discuss, deliberate and resolve a growth path while identifying the strengths and correcting the weaknesses, by seeing a prospect in every menace. The workshop was sponsored by Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, India. The workshop immersed around 200 numbers of presenters and participants from Allahabad and nearby places including Jaipur and Moradabad.

The registration process and social networking started at 10:00AM. At 10:30 AM two films/documentaries on Digital India were shown embracing message on the Digital India’s significances and its implications on citizens of India.

The inaugural function of the workshop began at 11:00 AM with homage to Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, Former President of India. It was followed by the Saraswati Vandana and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest Prof. Somenath Biswas, Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad (IIIT Allahabad), the Patron of the program Prof. P. Chakrabarti, Director MNNIT Allahabad and Dr. G. P. Sahu, Workshop Coordinator.

Workshop Coordinator, Dr. G. P. Sahu introduced the objectives of the workshop and briefed the presenters about the program detail of the workshop. He gave a detailed report about the significance of the observation of Digital India initiative, explaining the e-governance, digital service, cyber crime etc. He also talked about employment generation through this initiative.

Thereafter, the Chief Guest, Prof. Somenath Biswas, Director, IIT Allahabad and the first Keynote speaker of the program expressed his view over the magnitude of the Digitalization. He also talked about challenges and risk in automated decision making such as correctness, fairness and transparency.

Prof. P. Chakrabarti, Director, MNNIT Allahabad in his address speech shared his views about the role of electronics on Digital revolution. He highlighted the facts about Digital India like its history, Nine Pillars of Digital India and enhancing widespread use of computers, he concluded with Digital India is not a slogan it's a mission, which will have to be achieved by 2018. Further he mentioned that India is one of the leading countries in IT sector and MNNIT will further support such innovative ideas by funding a few of the innovative projects on Digital India.

Then the inaugural function concludes with vote of thanks from Dr. Mayank Pandey, Co-coordinator of the Workshop.

After a small 15 minutes tea break, the Keynote Session started at 12:15 PM with the speech (Video Lecture) of Mr. Vijay K. Thadani, Chairman, Board of Governors, MNNIT Allahabad. In his speech he covered 10 important areas of Digital India initiative including content, application, regional research network, cyber scrutiny area and more. He suggested that "DIGITAL INDIANS" will make "INDIA DIGITAL". He talked about inspirations and aspiration which this institution can build. He mentioned that the MNNIT Allahabad has factor advantages such as geographical connectivity, cultural connectivity, historical knowledge based and it has potential of second green revolution. He said that digital India is all about application advantages. The city has numbers of institution that can connect together to form a research hub. CII is having very intense campaign called Digital North which has to implement in north region and CII will do for other regions also. He concluded that for perspiration, it is extremely important that people take Digital India as a call coming from within, instead of a call from outside. He advised that

India's Today + Information Technology + Inspired Technology= India's Tomorrow

Prof. M. M. Gore, Professor, CSED, MNNIT Allahabad the keynote speaker of the event mentioned that Digital India will lead to Transparent India. He advises that united we stand and would achieve the goal of Digital India whilst, divided we fall and fail in making Digital India a reality.

Dr. G. P. Sahu, in his keynote speech presented that there is huge job opportunities for the Indian youth in the process of implementation of Digital India initiative. Further he mentioned that innovative use of Information technology will lead to job creation he supported his idea with a case study.

Technical Session started at 2:00PM with Dr. Tanuj Nandan, Associate Professor, MNNIT Allahabad, in the Chair. Dr. Nandan also presented his paper on Digital India. Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Shukla, Asstt. Prof., Ewing Christian College, Allahabad, Dr. Mithilesh Trivedi, Asstt. Prof. Jagannath University, Jaipur, Ms. Abhilasha Kumar, Student, SMS, MNNIT, Allahabad,

Ms. Ankita Chandra, SMS, MNNIT Allahabad have presented their papers and views in the workshop.

The Panel Discussion round started with designated panelist Prof. Geetika, MNNIT Allahabad, Prof. Rajeev Tripathi, MNNIT Allahabad, Prof. Neeraj Tyagi, MNNIT Allahabad, Prof. Yogesh Dwivedi, Swansea University, Walls, United Kingdom (via Video Conferencing), and Dr. G P Sahu, Moderator.

Prof. Yogesh K Dwivedi from Swansea University, highlighted the basic requirement of Digitalization.

Dr. G. P. Sahu, Coordinator of the Workshop, Dr. Mayank Pandey, Co-coordinator of the Workshop and Divya Kmar, Secretary of the Organization committee talked about the importance of Indian Government initiatives. They discussed about the steps taken by the institute as well as their future plan contribution in this ambitious project.

The programme attracted good numbers of news channel and media coverage. Around 5 news channels have covered the Workshop. Also, DD News has interviewed the Patron of the Workshop, Prof. P. Chakrabarti, Director, MNNIT Allahabad and Dr. G. P. Sahu, Workshop Coordinator. Photographs are attached herewith.

The Conference was brought to conclusion with the valedictory function which started at 4:30 PM. The Chief Guest of the function was Prof. P. Chakrabarti, Director, MNNIT Allahabad. The Guest of Honor of the function was Prof. R. K. Srivastava, Dean Research and Consultancy, MNNIT Allahabad.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr G. P. Sahu. The function ended with the National Anthem.